

“Beware Lest Thou Forget The Lord”

Introduction. Man is a forgetful creature (Genesis 40:23; Mark 8:14). However, nothing is so serious as to forget God. This was Israel’s great sin (Deuteronomy 6:12; cf. Deuteronomy 32:18; Judges 3:7; Isaiah 1:3; Jeremiah 2:32). If we forget God, we will be destroyed (Job 8:11-13; Psalm 9:17). The admonition to not forget God is too vague, so we will examine four great areas in which people forget about Him.

I. *Forget His Existence (Psalm 14:1)*

- A. He created the world and still is in control of it. He upholds all things by the word of His power (Psalm 46:10; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3).
- B. He knows everything that takes place in the universe. The fool thinks that God will not see them (Psalm 139:7-12; cf. Numbers 32:23; Matthew 10:29-30; Hebrews 4:13).
- C. God saw Cain, Hagar, Achan, the poor widow, Gehazi, Judas, and Ananias. Seven times to the churches of Asia He said, “I know ...” (Revelation 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15). We are dependent upon Him, so we should not forget Him (Psalm 104:24-29; Acts 17:28).

II. *Forget His Works (Psalm 78:7)*

- A. To the psalmist, God’s greatness was seen in His “works” or “mighty acts” (Psalm 145:4-5). The history of the world and of the people of Israel is a record of the mighty acts of God: the creation (Genesis 1-2), the flood (Genesis 6), the call of Abraham (Genesis 12), etc.
- B. But Israel forgot God’s works.
 - 1. The nine plagues (Exodus 7:14-10:29).
 - 2. The death of the firstborn and the passover (Exodus 11:1-12:28).
 - 3. The dividing of the Red Sea (Exodus 13:17-14:31).
 - 4. Water and manna (Exodus 15:22-17:7).
 - 5. Miraculous care while in the desert (Deuteronomy 29:5).
- C. We still have God’s evidences because God has not left Himself without witness (Acts 14:17). It is a faith-building exercise to meditate upon God’s wondrous works.
 - 1. The heavens (Psalm 19:1-4).
 - 2. The Bible (John 5:39).
 - 3. The church (Ephesians 3:10).
 - 4. His providence (James 4:15).

III. *Forget His Praise (Psalm 18:3)*

- A. Too many fail to come for opportunities to praise Him (Hebrews 10:25). God is not pleased with lukewarmness (Revelation 3:16).

- B. Forget to worship when we come.
 1. We should worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24). We bow our heads, being technically able to prove all of it, but we fail to bow our hearts.
 2. God brought up children, but they rebelled against Him (Isaiah 1:2). The people honored God with their lips, but not with their hearts (Isaiah 29:13).
- C. Forget to show reverence for Him.
 1. God should be treated respectfully (Exodus 3:5; Psalm 4:4; 111:9; Habakkuk 2:20; Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 12:28).
 2. How should we act when we have come to worship?
 - a) We should listen and respect His presence.
 - b) Our children should be taught to act the same.
 3. How should we dress?
 - a) First and foremost, we must dress modestly (1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:1-7). No one who respects the Lord and their bodies will parade around among brethren in revealing or tight outfits.
 - b) We must also dress in a way that shows respect for the Lord. There has been a tendency toward casual dress which I hope does not betray a casual attitude toward our worship and other areas of service to God.

IV. **Forget His Benefits (Psalm 103:2)**

- A. Workers in the physical world are concerned about benefits: insurance, paid vacations, holidays, retirement plans, etc.
- B. What are the benefits to Christians?
 1. He listens to our petitions (1 Peter 3:12).
 2. He comforts us in sorrow (2 Thessalonians 2:16).
 3. He forgives us of sins (Colossians 1:14).
 4. He gives strength in temptations (1 Corinthians 10:13).
 5. He is always with us (Philippians 4:9).
 6. He has given us an eternal home (Revelation 21:1-2).
- C. When we are convinced to be careless and ungrateful (cf. Luke 17:17), we need to think about these benefits, and an appropriate response to them (Psalm 116:12).

Conclusion. The last element is that you should not forget to obey Him. If you can keep from forgetting His existence, works, praise, and benefits, it will go a long way to pointing you toward deep, heartfelt obedience (Romans 6:17-18). If this is now something that you are convinced you need, then tell us by coming forward while we stand and sing.