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5-15-11

REMEMBER
THE LORD
YOUR GOD!

For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead,

(Romans 1:20 NKJ)



Reflections

Moses, in his preparation of the people to enter the promised land, admonished them to “remember the Lord their God”. He challenged them to remember God in war and in peace, in plenty and in want, and when they live in a land that God provided for them they were charged to remember who gave them the power and skill to acquire their wealth and prosperity. They were to remember who had defeated and removed the previous tenants of the land He had promised them as their inheritance. If they chose to forget Him and His care for them there would be a heavy price to pay. The penalty for forgetting God was severe and He disciplined them for their failures and their impurity of heart and behavior. They faced conquest by their enemies, exile, dispersal, and spiritual blindness as they chose to dishonor the Creator God by worshiping the creation. Their rebellion caused them great suffering.

God has declared to us today in the Scripture that we too are held without excuse for forgetting Him. *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.* (Romans 1:20-23 NKJ) Men have long substituted fables and fictional explanations for the creation and what is observed in its study, and God has given them over to the error of their ways. As a result, the world in our day is in chaotic confusion where men dishonor their bodies, where wars and rumors of wars are common, and where the Church is entering into apostasy. Failing to acknowledge God continues to have dire consequences for mankind.

Knowing that God’s Word is true and that the chaotic world in which we live is in its current state due to the sin that has permeated it since Eden, what manner of people should we be? Paul warns Timothy that in the last days there would be a turning away from the truth of the Word. *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince,*

rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (2Timothy 4:2-4 NKJ) We must guard against such an outcome for ourselves and our families. We must remain a people of the Word!

The Scripture also advises us to remember our Creator in the days of our youth, (Ecclesiastes 12:1) yet we see our kid’s minds filled with the fables of the world and we, too often, see them walk away from Christ and His Church because they have forgotten, or haven’t really been convinced that their Creator is the real source of life. We watch as our youth buy into the false teachings of men who are seeking their own gratification and desiring power over others. Churches, aimed at the young, spring up with a watered-down version of the Gospel while appealing to their fleshly appetites for entertainment and many flock to them to have a form of godliness but without the power of the Holy Spirit at work in their lives. When God is not honored as God we are told that spiritual blindness results, and the minds of those who deny Him become clouded and darkened and the truth is exchanged for the lie. Men become worshipers of themselves and enter into a depraved state of mind that has eternal consequences as they reject the only way of salvation, Jesus Christ.

How can we then counter this assault on the hearts of men and our children? The answer, as it has always been, is to live, teach, and share the Gospel of Jesus who has made it very clear that He is the only way to the Father. Thomas, who doubted Jesus’ resurrection at first, wanted to know how they could find the way to follow Jesus into the presence of the father. *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* (John 14:6 NKJ)

We must become a people who remember that the Lord our God is the beginning and sustainer of our lives. We must remember His great promises to never leave or forsake us, to provide for our needs, to give us His Holy Spirit confirming that we are His children, and that, through His Son, He has given us access to His presence. So when we are enjoying the good times or suffering through the bad times of life, let’s remember the Lord our God and give Him our praise. He is our life, and yes He is the Creator of all, let’s remember Him! **Pastor Doug**