

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Keep “These Things” In Remembrance

Scripture Reading:

- **“¹⁵ Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. ¹⁶ For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty” (2 Pet 1:15-16).**
- **¹This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: ²That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour (2 Pet 3:1-2).**

Introduction:

A. The phrase **“These Things”** occurs four times in 2 Peter 1:8, 9, 12, 15. According to Matthew Poole, it means “the doctrine before delivered concerning faith in Christ, the practice of good works and their continuance in both.”

B. Peter knew he was near the end of his earthly life (vv. 14, 15). Therefore, he penned these verses to remind the Christians to keep certain things (“these things”) in remembrance after his “decease” (death). Peter told the readers what they already knew. He knew the Christians were firmly established in the truth and he wanted them to stay that way as there would be false teachers among them with destructive heresies (2 Pet 2:1).

- **“Remembrance”** – memory, to remember a thing, to call “these things” to mind.
- **“Heresies”** – any teaching that is contrary to the Word of God.

Point to Ponder:

False teachings secretly introduce or bring in destructive heresies – “Privily” (2 Pet 2:1). They do not teach it openly. They do it deceptively, quietly, secretly, slipping in false doctrines here and there.

As Christians, lest we forget, we should continuously remind ourselves of certain things (“these things”) to remember: (1) The Bible is the Word of God, (2) It is impossible for a person to save himself and (3) It is impossible for a person to lose his salvation.

I. The Bible is the Word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17)

Christians must have a firm conviction about the inspiration and authority of the Bible. We must have this assurance in order to “Grow in Grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 3:18).

A. The Bible is Inspired

God divinely influenced the human authors of the Scriptures in such a way that what they wrote was the very Word of God. Every word in the Bible came from God – “Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet 2:21).

B. The Bible is Authoritative

It is the standard for Christian Doctrines and Holy Living. Christians submit themselves to the authority of the Scripture as it is the authority on all matters.

- “Visit many good books, but live in the Bible” – Charles Spurgeon

C. The Bible is not of any Private Interpretation (2 Pet 1:20)

We cannot interpret Scripture as we want to. The Scripture is to be interpreted by itself and by the Holy Spirit who dwells within the Believers to teach them the truth.

- **Ps 119:105; Heb 4:12; 1 Tim 4:13; Ps 1:2**

Point to Ponder

- The Bible is completely trustworthy – always believe the Bible and what it says.
- “Do not fall into the trap of studying the Bible without doing what it says” – Francis Chan
- The Bible is not a dead, outdated Book. It is alive (“Quick”), Powerful” (Energizing), Sharp (Penetrating and Convicting) and a Discerner (Judge) – (Heb 4:12-13).

II. It is Impossible for a Person to Save Himself (Matt 19:16-29)

A. A Person Cannot Save Himself:

1. By doing good things – works (v. 16; Eph 2:9)
2. By obeying the Commandments (vv. 18-19)
3. Based on His “Great Possessions” (vv. 20-23)

Point to Ponder:

- “²⁵When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? ²⁶But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible (Matt 19:25-26).
- It is impossible for a person to Save himself. It is only possible for God to Save a person. Jesus, referring to Salvation, told those who questioned Him that what is impossible for man is made possible with God. It is He that touched our hearts to reach out together.

Study Question #1:

What are some ways in which a person seeks to earn Salvation?

B. How a person is Saved (Eph 2:8-9)

1. Salvation is **a free Gift of God**. It is by **Grace Alone** that a person is saved. A person can do nothing whatsoever to save himself. A person cannot earn, win, or merit salvation.
 2. Salvation is received by faith (Rom 3:27; 4:2, 5; 1 Cor 1:31). A person must **Believe** what God says in His Word and accept His free offer of Salvation.
- **John 3:15, 16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:35, 40, 47; 7:38; 11:25-26; 12:44, 46; 14:12**

- 3.** Salvation is not of works – anytime a person adds works of any kind or in any amount as a means of gaining eternal life, salvation is no longer by grace (Rom 11:6).
- “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5).
 - a.** Works is excluded in Salvation to prevent us from boasting (Eph 2:9; Rom 3:27).
 - b.** If a person could be saved by his own good works. Then the death of Christ was unnecessary (Gal 2:21). Jesus died because there was no other mean by which guilty sinners could be saved.
- 4.** If a person could save himself, he would be his own savior and could worship himself which is idolatry – forbidden by God (Exod 20:3).
- 5.** If a person could save himself, God would owe it to him. This is impossible, as God is not indebted to anyone (Rom 11:35).

Point to Ponder:

Christians are created to do good works. God saves a person **for** good works, not **by** good works. Doing good works is not optional for the Believer – It is the very nature of the Believer.

- **Matt 5:16; Col 1:10; 1 Tim 6:18; Titus 2:7, 8; 1 Pet 2:12**

Study Question #2:

For Whom did Jesus die?

- ◆ **See 1 Tim 2:6; 4:6; Rom 5:6, 8, 10; John 6:33, 51; Eph 5:25; 1 John 2:2**

III. It is Impossible for a Person to Lose His Salvation (Rom 8:35-39)

A. The Doctrine of Eternal Security

The belief that from the moment of Salvation, a True Believer (Christian) is saved from Hell and will never lose his salvation in Christ Jesus.

- Once a person has been physically born, he cannot be unborn. In the same sense, a person who truly becomes spiritually born, cannot become unborn spiritually, unsaved again or lose his salvation.

(See Jesus’ discourse with Nicodemus – John 3:1-8)

B. Once in Christ and ever in Christ. A star may sooner fall out of its orb than a True Believer be plucked away from God” – Thomas Watson

C. “We cannot be unjustified any more than Christ can be uncrucified” – Burk Parsons
Justification is the act of making someone right with God. It takes place when God declares those who place their faith in Christ to be righteous (2 Cor 5:21; Rom 3:22-26).

D. Eternal Security is not a License to Sin

- 1.** A Christian is “A New Creature” (2 Cor 5:17) which means the person in Christ has changed in his whole being, nature, life, and behavior. The Believer walks and lives in Christ day by day.

2. Carnal Christian – This person is saved but spiritually immature, lives according to the flesh and the world (1 Cor 3:1-3).

3. Be Sure of Your Salvation

A Believer may be carnal for a time (in times of failure, rebellion, death of a loved one, loss of a job, persecution, etc.). However, a Carnal Christian will not remain carnal for a lifetime. A Carnal Christian should expect God to lovingly discipline him so that he can be restored to close fellowship with God and be trained to obey Him (Heb 12:5-11).

Point to Ponder:

A Carnal Christian is subject to the discipline of God and can lose rewards in this life and at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Matt 6:1; 1 Cor 3:10-15; 13:3; 2 John 8). Carnal Christians forfeit fellowship with God and with other Believers (1 John 1:3-7).

4. Beware of False Professions - (Those who profess to know God but never became a child of God). “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16). False Professors are not saved and will not inherit eternal life in Heaven with Jesus.

○ “²¹Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (Matt 7:21-23).

○ “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Tim 2:19).

○ **John 6:37, 39, 47; 10:27-29; 1 John 2:25; 5:13**

Challenge:

“Someone told you about Jesus; who have you told lately?” Continue to share Jesus with others. Jesus is coming back, and it could be today.

Conclusion:

A. As recommended by Peter, keep in mind (remember) the biblical doctrines and commandments that you already know. Read, study, meditate and obey the Bible so that you may “Grow in Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 3:18).

B. Keep in mind that the Bible is the Word of God from Genesis 1:1 – Rev 22:21. Every Word was inspired by God.

○ **The Holy Bible**

Read the Bible to be Wise. Believe it to be Safe. Practice is to be Holy
It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you.

Memory Verse:

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”

(1 Cor 15:57).

From the Teaching Ministry of:

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“... The word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).