

ing Jerusalem, **"If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth—If I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy"** (Psa. 137:6). Asaph cried, **"I will remember the works of the LORD; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old"** (Psa. 77:11). Just as David prayed that the Lord would remember him, he acknowledged his own responsibility to remember the Lord. He declared, **"When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice"** (Psa. 63:6-7). This must happen at all times and all places. The Psalmist declares, **"O my God, my soul is cast down within me; therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, and from the heights of Hermon, from the Hill Mizar"** (Psa. 42:6). This declares (in essence), "I'll remember you from east to west, and north or south!"

What About Us?

We may, like the thief on the cross hope that in the hour when we are the most vulnerable the Lord will remember us. We may fear that life will throw trials at us which are too great—burdens upon us that are beyond our ability to bear. Like Job, we can be assured that God remembers that we are **"like clay."** For those who are His, He is faithful and remembers the covenant He has made with us in Christ. The question is, will we—in the busy rush of life, stop, consider and in faithfulness remember Him?

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BULLETIN OF THE OLSEN PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings



Services

Sunday: 9:00 AM
10:00 AM
11:00 AM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:
Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn

Deacons:
Steve Dixon
Ryan Ferguson
Arend Gressley
Ben Hight
Blake McAlister
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Sam Nunn
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott
Justin Smiley
Trevor Yontz

Evangelist:
Kyle Pope

"Lord, Remember Me"

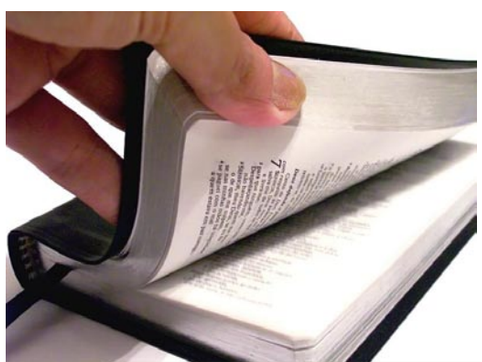
by Kyle Pope

As Jesus hung upon the cross, one of the criminals who had been crucified with Him, after first mocking Him with the other criminal (Matt. 27:44), had a change of heart. He rebuked the other robber (Luke 23:40-41), and then said to Jesus **"Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom"** (Luke 23:42, NKJV). Much attention has been given to this account and what lessons it teaches us. Yet, one aspect of the man's request that has drawn little attention is what he actually asked—"Remember Me."

What Was the Thief Requesting?

The man's question presupposes that the he understood that death was not the end for either himself or for Jesus. By his very request he demonstrated a confidence that in the realm of the dead Jesus would have power to grant his request. Did the man understand that Jesus, in death would assume dominion over a spiritual kingdom? Probably not. Did he imagine that Jesus would attain this dominion through resurrection? Perhaps. Did he hope that Jesus would bring him to life again also, so that he could reign with Jesus in this kingdom? It isn't clear. What is evident is that the man acknowledged that the

two of them were about to enter into *uncharted territory*—the place of the dead. Something moved him to realize that the very man who hung beside him offered him guidance through that territory which the officials who had nailed him to the cross, the slanderous criminal who hung with them, and the bloodthirsty mob assembled below them could not. Instead, he appealed to this crucified, dying teacher who (whether the thief fully realized it or not) was God in the flesh, offering His life for the sins of mankind, purchasing with His blood an eternal kingdom that would conquer sin and death and offer man the hope of eternal life with God in the age to come. The thief begged of this Man—"remember me."



We All Want God To Remember Us

Man has often cried out to God that He would remember him. Samson, in his anguish cried out to the Lord, **"O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!"** (Judges 16:28). Hannah, in despair over her childlessness, begged the Lord to **"…look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me…"** begging that God, **"not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child…"** (1 Samuel 1:11). Like many of us, Job feared that God would forget his limitations. He cried to Him,"**"Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay"** asking Him then,"**"And will You turn me into dust again?"** (Job 10:9). David, in many Psalms expressed his desire that God remember him. He cried out, **"Lord, remember David and all his afflictions"** (Psa. 132:1). He asks that God remember His promises, and begs, **"Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope"** (Psa. 119:49). David, in the face of enemies or in recognition of his own faults fears that God's mercy might be exhausted. He appeals, **"Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old"** (Psa. 25:6). Like the thief on the cross, David wanted the Lord to remember him with salvation. He prayed, **"Remember me, O Lord, with the favor You have toward Your people; Oh, visit me with Your salvation"** (Psa. 106:4).

God Remembers His People

While man often fears that God will not remember him, such is an unwarranted fear. God has promised that He remembers His people and the promises He makes to them. God promised Noah that the rainbow which He set in the sky would be a sign of the covenant that He made not to destroy the earth again by water. He promised **"I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh"** (Gen. 9:15). In the Law of Moses, God promised that when the Israelites had turned away from His Law, but then confessed their sin, He promised, **"then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land"** (Lev. 26:42). Even though Israel would fail to remember and keep the covenant they made with God, He promised that He would not break the covenant He made with the Israelites in the wilderness. He declared,"**"for their sake I will remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the Lord"** (Lev. 26:45). This early relationship which God had with Israel He likens to a betrothal, declaring through Jeremiah, **"Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, Thus says the Lord: 'I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, when you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown'"** (Jer. 2:2). Israel then, was like a child for which the Lord cared. He says through Ezekiel, **"I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you,"** in the hope that, **"then you will remember your ways and be ashamed…"** (Ezek. 16:60-61a). This suggests that man bears a responsibility…

We Must Remember God

While we need not fear that God will forget us, the real danger is that we may forget God. The exiles in Babylon, fearing that they would forget their covenant with God and the city where the name of the Lord had dwelt, cried regard-