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God will not forget you

I have never had a great detailed memory. I am okay on the big picture and themes, but I have to dig and refresh on details. As well, getting older my *forgetter* seems to be getting better! And so you may understand my admiration and appreciation for those hear, see or read something once and have it down pat, for good, on instant recall when needed.

One thing I know for certain, God never will forget me, or you! We know that because He has told us so.

Moses urged the people of Israel to remember God and His Law when they entered the land He was giving them. Moses painted a clear picture of what it would mean if they forgot God. He told them that even then, if they turned back to God, He would be compassionate on them. Why? Because He “will not forget the covenant” He made with their fathers (Deuteronomy 4:31). God is the same today. When we stray God does not forget us, He does not forget His promises to us. When we return He is compassionate and blesses us.

One familiar and beautiful picture of this is found in Isaiah chapter 49. The people say,

“The LORD has abandoned me, and the LORD has forgotten me” (v. 14).

Have you been there? You may be there today.

God answered,

“Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me” (15-16).

Every time I read this I am in awe, I am humbled, I am so grateful. Just as Jesus carries the never-fading scars of the nails and spear in His resurrection body, so indelibly is every child of God with and before Him, and that includes *you!* He never will forget you no matter where you are or what you have done, no matter how you feel or what you think.

There are some specific aspects of God’s remembering and not forgetting which we need to keep in focus. One of them has to do with our service for God. Have you ever had a time when you



wondered if your efforts to follow and serve God make a real difference, are noticed by anyone, that even God does not seem to be noticing? If you have, join the club of all the rest of us. While we can see some of what God is doing through us, we will never see all of it, perhaps that much of it, this side of heaven.

The writer of Hebrews, in chapter 6, challenges believers to “press on to maturity”, to keep being diligent, to keep growing in the faith and serving God. To help motivate us he writes,

“God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, by having served and by still serving the saints” (v. 10).

One paraphrase renders the first phrase, “God doesn’t miss anything.” Yes, even the smallest things that others do not notice.

The apostle Paul encourages us,

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people, knowing that it is from the Lord that you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”

Colossians 3:23-24

If, and whenever you wonder if God is using you, or you and your efforts make any difference, remember these words, this promise from God to you: He will not forget you or what you do for Him. Even if you don’t have a great detailed memory, make sure you do not lose sight of this.

Pastor Lyle