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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..”* [Acts 16:31a](#) And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”* [Romans 10:9,10](#) *“For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* [Romans 10:13](#) *“Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* [Romans 5:1](#)

Isaiah 43:18

"Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past." - NASB

"Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old." - KJV

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past." - NIV

"Forget the things that happened in the past. Do not keep on thinking about them." - NIRV

op dwelling on past events and brooding over times gone by;" - CJB

"Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago." - GNT

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past." - NIVUK

אל-תִּזְכְּרוּ, ראשונות; וְקַדְמֹנִיּוֹת, אל-תִּתְּבַנְּנֵנִי

1. "Do not call to mind the former things," - 'al tizkeru ri'shonoth.

Do not call to mind is the qal future of *zâkar*. *Zakar* deals with intellectual activity with reference to the past. It denotes cognitive occupation with a person or situation. That's why it is translated as: call to mind, remember, to recollect, to recall. With the negative it is translated as: remember ye not, forget the things that happened in the past, forget the former things, stop dwelling on past events.

Every believer goes through things in life, some of them are good, some of them are bad. The key to successful living and having prosperity in life of body and soul is how we deal with them. Not only as we are going through them, but in the years afterward! If we think about the disappointments, or the failures, or the loss of what we had and lost, then we rob ourselves of every blessing that God has for us in the present and not only the present, but the future as well!

Paul instructs believers in Christ how to deal with them in Philippians 3:13,14, "*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting** those things which are behind, and **reaching forth** unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*" Paul tells us that this is to be a way of life for us, that it's to be a daily practice, and that it's an intensive idea. If we don't, then we'll ruin our lives and any chance of happiness. We have to live in the present not the past.

That's why this passage translates it as: *remember ye not, forget the things that happened in the past, forget the former things, stop dwelling on past events*. What this means is that we are not to allow ourselves to be thinking about days gone by as Job did in Job 29:2, "*Oh that I were as in months **gone by**, As in the **days** when God watched over me*". NIV We are not to dwell upon them, we are not to bring them to mind as the result of conscious determination, and we are not to allow ourselves to even think on them for a moment if they do pop into our minds!

And at the same time, we can't allow ourselves to be dwelling on the good things that happened in the past, our successes, the times we were surrounded by fun and prosperity, by people that we loved and shared life with, but are no longer with us, for if we do, and if we compare them to what's going on in our present lives, then we will have that tendency to let that overshadow what we're going through now and be despondent over our present situation. Whatever we have gone through, whether good or bad, is all behind us now and all we have is the present. Life comes with a variety of experiences, some good and some bad, but the only thing that remains a constant is that God is with us.

The element of loss plagues all men, sometimes even more so those believers who walk with the Lord. Why did my parents have to die? Or this relative or that one die? Why did my friends forsake me? Why did my husband or wife leave me? Grappling with loss and overcoming it through the application of Bible Doctrine is crucial to not be dwelling in the past.

Sometimes people we love die because they are old and they have lived their long full lives here on earth. God had given us 70 years, 80 if by strength, but sooner or later people do come to the end of the trail and they exit this life to go on to be with the Lord. We have to understand that. Sometimes people leave their relationship with us and go out into the world system to gratify their lusts and become friends with the world. We have to understand and accept that people have free will and sometimes they use it wrongfully, and sometimes they hurt other people when they do.

Sometimes you'll have a spouse or a friend that abandons their *phileo* love relationship with you to go on and live in the flesh. We have to understand and accept that concept as a part of life. It will hurt for awhile, but God will get you through it. What you cannot do is allow your mind to keep on thinking about them and why it all came about. You have to accept that they left the trail you both were on and now you have to go on without them.

Sometimes we were doing things that were fun to us and enjoyed life with certain people, but God changed all that! We have to understand that God is our loving heavenly Father and he has control over our lives and situations and he will remove certain people and things away from us that are harmful or detrimental to our faith walk with him. God wants us to live a life of peace, righteousness, faith and biblical love and when anything or anyone hinders that concept, and they won't change, then God will remove us from them, or them from us! 1 Corinthians 7:15, "*But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.*"

We are not to dwell upon how life and times were better in days gone by. Ecclesiastes 7:10, "*Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions.*" It's easy to look back at the good life we used to have, but no longer do and lament the change. We have to learn to accept the reality that things change, for a variety of reasons, and we have to accept the reality that a change has taken place. Our constant is God, that's what we have to learn and accept. Psalms 137:1, "*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.*"

When God brought the Israelites back into the land from Babylon, where the people had been sent in punishment due to their idolatry and wickedness, there were those who had seen and remembered the temple of God as it was before they were deported and for all those years the memory of the temple was in their minds. But when they saw they rebuilt temple they broke down and sobbed. Ezra 3:12, "*But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were **ancient men, that had seen the first house**, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, **wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:***"

The key to handling painful memories is 1) not to dwell on them, or get caught up in them, but to see that you shared your journey in life on earth with this person and that one and now they are no longer on the trail with you. 2) is to appreciate and be thankful for the times you did have with them. As life and time go by you will leave many people on the trail behind you, but you must press on with God.

The former things is the feminine plural of *ri'shôn*. **Rishon** in the feminine plural is a reference to all the things that have gone down in Israel up to that point. Now he's going to do something new in Israel. As he said in Isaiah 43:19, "*Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.*" NASB "*Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.*"

Life is always changing and sometimes those changes are quite severe and all encompassing. At one time we had good health, now we are getting old or suffering. At one time we had money to go out for dinner, take trips, buy clothes and a variety of other things, but now we don't. At one time we had many fiends in our lives and did lots of things that were fun, but now we don't. At one time we had our children at home, but now they have grown up and left home. Once we had love relationships with a right man right woman, or close personal friend, but now we're alone. One our relatives were alive, but now they're dead. Once we had many people in our lives, now we're alone.

The believer can get to the place where he wonders is this it? Everything I worked for, believed in, made plans for, loved, or enjoyed is now taken from me. He can get to the place where he feels like Job did in Job 17:11, "*My days are past, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart.*" This is definitely the place where the believer needs to apply Isaiah 43:18,19a, "*Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.*"

If we're not dead, then God still has a plan for our lives and he will do something new in them. The Greek chose to use the word *kainos* for **new** telling us that it will be something new and different than we had before. Remember, after Job's trial God gave him 10 more children, twice the money and power, and maybe a new wife, as some have thought. Job 42:12,13, "*So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and three daughters.*"

2. "*Or ponder things of the past.*" - *weqadmoniyyoth 'al-tithbonanu*. To **ponder** is the hithpolel future of *bîyn*. The hithpolel is the Chaldean stem that is both intensive and reflexive. **Biyn** was used for the function of the mind in the area of thinking, but in the hithpolel stem it meant to consider diligently, to look at closely, to pay attention to.

In the middle reflexive sense it tells us that the believer is using his/her mind to think on the past, and in the intensive sense it gives us the idea that he or she are really caught up in it all. In other words it does not describe someone who has a thought come into their mind, but drives it out, but someone whose mind is given over to really thinking about things gone by. It's like **a preoccupation with the things of past where they go over it again and again.**

"If I had done this or that this wouldn't have happened. If he or she had done things differently the marriage wouldn't have been destroyed. If I can somehow get to the person I love, and if they do this or that, we can have our love restored, or our marriage back together, or my children wouldn't have ended up on drugs". It's to keep going over all the details in our minds and trying to come up with a solution to change things. The thing that is lacking here is accepting the reality that a decision has been made; it may have been a bad decision, but it's been made, now it's time to go on.

Things of the past is *qadmônîy*. The word *qadmoniy* doesn't specify in context as any given thing in the past that has taken place, so it is simply put as things of the past, which could take in things that one had personally experienced in their own life all the way to the way things that were in their country as they lived in it over the years.

The mental dynamic follows as such, the believer recalls things that they had gone through, they recall the bad done to them by others, the mistakes they had made, areas they failed in, the way things used to be, the loves they had lost, the opportunities they had not taken advantage of and then they start to think about them and intensely so.

All of us have done this at one time or another and to one degree or another, maybe some are presently caught up in this negative mental dynamic. The cure for this is two fold: 1) to stop thinking about them, and 2) bring faith into the equation. That's where the next clause comes in where God says, "**Behold, I will do something new**, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

In the Hebrew it's *הַנְּנִי עֹשֶׂה חֲדָשִׁים עִתָּהּ*, *hinniy 'oseh chadashah*. **I will do** is the qal participle of *'ásâh*, which is to make things out of existing materials. What we want to focus on is the subject of the verb, which is the 1st person singular I telling us that it is God who is going to be making something new in our lives! We lament what we had and lost, but we have to understand that what we had and lost is gone! We have to accept that loss in our lives! And at the same time we have to encourage ourselves in the knowledge that God is going to do something new for us in our lives!

There is a book in the Bible, other than Job, that deals with loss and a believer's lamenting over his loss and that's the book of Lamentations. Jeremiah not only live through Israel's destruction, he watched it firsthand. And after the carnage was over he lamented the loss. He remembered what Israel was and could have been, if they would have turned back to God, but they didn't.

But he had hope towards the future, and remember he was an old man at this time, so it would have been really easy for him, in the flesh nature, to have given up and concluded life was all over - but it wasn't! Lamentations 3:21-25, "**This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.**"

Make no mistake about it Jeremiah was suffering, he was sad, depressed and weeping over all that had happened, not to mention he had spent his entire adult life serving as God's mouthpiece to get Israel to turn around and come back to his Word - but they refused. So not only did he have a life of suffering and weeping, he had to face what it all ended up in their final destruction! But he had hope for the future because of his faith in the Word of God!

He had accepted God's judgment on Israel, but there was a part of him that was holding on thinking maybe it could be turned around, which he expressed this sentiment in Lamentations 5:21,22, "**Restore us to yourself, LORD, that we may return; renew our days as of old unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure.**"

Pastor Mike