

How Will You Be Remembered?

The faculty of the mind by which it retains the knowledge of past events, or ideas which are past. A distinction is made between *memory* and recollection. *memory* retains past ideas without any, or with little effort; recollection implies an effort to recall ideas that are past. -Webster 1828 dictionary

Remember: **1.** To have in the mind an idea which had been in the mind before, and which recurs to the mind without effort.

We are said to *remember* any thing, when the idea of it arises in the mind with the consciousness that we have had this idea before.

2. When we use effort to recall an idea, we are said to recollect it. This distinction is not always observed. Hence *remember* is often used as synonymous with recollect, that is, to call to mind. We say, we cannot *remember* a fact when we mean, we cannot recollect it.

The ability to remember things is good even though, at times, there may be some things that we would like to forget. "The brain is complex; in humans it consists of about 100 billion neurons, making on the order of 100 trillion connections." So, it is no small wonder that a brain acts like a computer retaining information. An event, incident, something seen or heard many years before is often remembered when least expected. This writer remembers an event that happened when he was about two and half years; he was attacked by a German shepherd dog at his grandparents' home. Those who read this little pamphlet will acknowledge that they remember things, some good and some not so good, but they do remember. Yes, there are times that we would like to figure a way to permanently erase something from our computer brain. As much as we may wish this, it does not happen, and our memory bank will retain all of this until our earthly pilgrimage comes to an end.

So far, all of this has been about the human mind and the ability to remember, to forget, or try to forget. Did you know that God can remember and forget? He really does! For those who repent of sin and trust Him as Saviour, **ALL** their sins are forgotten; every one of them. It is true! How do we know? Because He said so in His Word, the Bible. "To him [*Jesus*] give all the prophets witness, that through his name [*Jesus*] whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." {Acts 10:43} Remission means simply the taking away of sins and once done, they are **never** returned. The taking away of sins is an integral part of God's redemption when a sinner repents and trusts Jesus Christ as Saviour. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;" {Ephesians 1:7} "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins;" {Colossians 1:14} Redemption is a ransom paid in full; a deliverance. The repentant sinner is saved by the grace of God and it is **ALL** by faith; good works or any other effort has nothing to do with it. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." {Ephesians 2:8-9} "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; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;" {Titus 3:5-6} The phrase, "... for I will forgive their iniquity, and **I will remember their sin no more.**" [*emphasis added*] {Jeremiah 31:34} though applied to Israel, has a secondary application for all believers. **God does not remember the sins of people once they have trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour.**

But, what about those who have not trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour? For those, God does remember their sins, and they will answer for them and the results will be most unpleasant. There are eight verses in the Bible that reference a "book of life" and names recorded there. **ALL** Christians, those who have trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour have their names recorded in the "book of life." "...but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." {Luke 10:20} God does keep a record book and He does remember! For those who have not trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour, the Bible says, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in

it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was **not found written in the book of life** [*emphasis added*] was cast into the lake of fire.” {Revelation 20:12-15} Those who are not in the Lamb’s book of life include, “...but the fearful, and **unbelieving** [*emphasis added*], and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” {Revelation 21:8}

Friend. God does not remember any sin(s) that a believer has committed because they are **ALL** under the blood, the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the Cross of Calvary. For those who have not trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour, God does remember but that can be changed. How? By repenting of sin and trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” {Romans 10:13} “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” {John 3:16} “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” {1 John 5:13} “...their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.” {Hebrews 8:12}

It is a blessing and encouragement to know that, for Christian believers, we have not only been forgiven but that God does **NOT** remember any of our iniquities. What about you friend; will God remember and hold you accountable for your sins? Will you repent and trust Jesus Christ as Saviour? You and you alone **MUST** answer this question!

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/August 2020

All Scripture references are KJV