

Doctrine of Forgetting

1. Sometimes an act of being forgetful is designed to be a blessing to another.

- *Deuteronomy 24:19* When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands.

2. The grave is called “the land of forgetfulness.”

- *Psalms 88:12* Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? And thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

3. Time and distance can help an individual forget violent anger.

- *Genesis 27:42* And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; 44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away; 45 Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?

4. The blessings of God can help an individual forget difficult days.

- *Genesis 41:51* And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.

5. God's people must guard their hearts lest they forget the following.

- The Commandments of the Lord. *Deuteronomy 4:9* Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;
- The Covenant of the Lord God. *Deuteronomy 4:23* Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the Lord thy God hath forbidden thee.
- The History of Divine Deliverance. *Deuteronomy 6:12* Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

6. Because God is a merciful God, He will not forget the covenant He has made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- *Deuteronomy 4:31 (For the Lord thy God is a merciful God ;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.*

7. Most of all, the Lord warns His people not to forget He Himself.

- *Deuteronomy 8:11 Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:*

8. What can cause the heart to forget God?

- *Pride. Deuteronomy 8:14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;*
- *Idolatry. Deuteronomy 8:19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.*
- *Presumptuous Sinning. Deuteronomy 9:7 Remember, and forget not, how thou provokedst the Lord thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the Lord.*
- *A Sense of National Security. Deuteronomy 25:19 Therefore it shall be, when the Lord thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.*

9. Individuals have vowed not to forget the Lord for blessings received.

- *Hannah. 1 Samuel 1:11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.*

10. Death and destruction await those who forget God.

- *Job 8:11 Can the rush [papyrus] grow up without mire? Can the flag [reeds] grow without water? 12 Whilst it is yet in his greenness, and not cut down, it withereth before any other herb. 13 So are the paths [destiny] of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:*

11. When depressed, it is difficult to forget the days of trouble.

- *Job 9:27 If I say, I will forget my complaint, I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself: 28 I am afraid of all my sorrows, I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent.*

12. With the passing of time, it is possible to forget one's days of misery.

- *Job 11:16 Because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away:*

13. Those that do not honor the Lord will be forgotten.

- *Job 24:20 The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree.*

14. Divine judgment falls upon those nations that forget God.

- *Psalms 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*

15. Part of one's prayer life is to petition God not to forget the humble.

- *Psalms 10:12 Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.*

16. In days of spiritual depression it is possible to feel as if God has forgotten a person. This was the experience of David and even of the Lord Jesus Christ

- *Psalms 13:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? Forever? How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?*

17. In moments of spiritual worship, it is possible and even proper to forget all else but God.

- *Psalms 45:10 Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;*

18. Terrible consequences await those who forget God.

- *Psalms 50:22 Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.*

19. Surprisingly victory over one's enemies short of death will help people not to forget the goodness of God.

- *Psalms 59:10 The God of my mercy shall prevent me: God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies. 11 Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield.*

20. God's people must be careful not to forget the following.

- The benefits of the Lord. *Psalms 103:2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:*
- The Word of the Lord. *Psalms 119:16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.*
- The statutes of the Lord. *Psalms 119:83 For I am become like a bottle in the smoke; yet do I not forget thy statutes.*
- The precepts of the Lord. *Psalms 119:93 I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.*
- The Law of the Lord. *Psalms 119:109 My soul is continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law.*
- The commandments of the Lord. *Psalms 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.*
- Jerusalem. *Psalms 137:5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning [skill].*
- Wisdom and Understanding. *Proverbs 4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.*

21. The Christian must be careful to avoid anything that will cause the heart to forget the Law of the Lord.

- *Proverbs 31:5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.*

22. Sometimes it is good to drink in order to forget one's poverty.

- *Proverbs 31:6 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. 7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.*

23. God has promised not to forget His people.

- *Isaiah 49:15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.*

24. Divine healing helps people to forget their former shame.

- *Isaiah 54:4 Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.*

25. The heart of God grieves when His people forget Him.

- *Jeremiah 2:32 Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number.*

26. There are periods when God declares He will forget His people.

- *Jeremiah 23:39 Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and cast you out of my presence:*
- *Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

27. The forgetfulness of God is only for a moment and then, where sin abounds, grace does much more abound.

- *Amos 8:7 The Lord hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.*

28. The Lord will not be unrighteous by forgetting good works and labors of love.

- *Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

29. The life of the Christian is to be one of remembrance and not forgetting to help others in a sacrificial manner.

- *Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*