



PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

December 25, 2016

Remember Jesus

by Frank Himmel

Three times the New Testament specifically tells us to remember Jesus. Do you recall what there is about Him we are to remember? (Hint: His birth is *not* one of the three!)

Jesus' Death

Jesus Himself encouraged us to remember His death. It is the central event of history. It was the atonement for our sins. The Lord helped us remember His death by establishing an ongoing memorial.

... The Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Jesus' Resurrection

"Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel" (2 Timothy 2:8). Jesus said His resurrection would be the sign, the proof of who He was (Matthew 12:38-40). It is our

assurance that the Father accepted Jesus' atonement. It enabled Jesus to overcome death, to ascend back to heaven and take His place as our King and Lord (Acts 2:24-36). That is why His resurrection, along with His crucifixion, was the constant theme of the apostles' sermons. That is why it is so often used to comfort and encourage. That is why Peter could say "baptism now saves you... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21).

Jesus' Teaching

Paul told the Ephesian elders they must "remember the words of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 20:35). Jesus' teaching is as much an expression of God's grace as His atonement was (Titus 2:11-12). It is the truth that makes us free if we abide in it (John 8:32-33); when we do not, we do not have God (2 John 9). Jesus' words provide instruction, warning, hope, comfort, assurance, and wisdom. They are the standard by which He will judge us (John 12:48). One more thing: the Bible emphasizes that we need to remember the words Jesus spoke through His apostles (Jude 17) as well as those He spoke personally.

Conclusion

Remembering Jesus includes remembering all we know of Him. Obviously, it goes far beyond simply recalling facts. We remember Jesus by reflecting Him in our lives every day, each step of the way. ■



The Chief of Sinners

by Frank Himmel

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15, NKJV). Paul considered himself the chief of sinners prior to his conversion. Have you ever thought about the world’s number-one sinner?

The chief of sinners was a religious man. That might surprise some. We would more likely expect him to be an atheist, or at least one who, if he believed in God, couldn’t have cared less about Him. No, Saul (as he was known in those days) was a well-trained Jew (Acts 22:3).

The chief of sinners was a fervent religious man. He wasn’t the half-hearted kind, whose affections are really elsewhere. He wasn’t the hypocritical kind, one who goes to church on Sundays but the rest of the week is arrogant, foul-mouthed, a drunkard, a womanizer, or a scoundrel. No, Saul was a stickler for moral uprightness and more zealous for what he believed than most (Galatians 1:14).

The chief of sinners was ignorant. He later admitted it: “I was formerly a blasphemer and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief” (1 Timothy 1:13). That should forever destroy the notion that it doesn’t matter what we believe as long as we are sincere.

The chief of sinners was presumptuous. This often goes hand-in-hand with ignorance. Saul just decided for himself what he ought to do in God’s service instead of following God’s revelation. “So then, I thought I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And this is just what I did...” (Acts 26:9-10). As is often the case, his assumptions proved to be dead wrong.

The chief of sinners was teachable. To Saul’s credit, despite his misguided religious zeal he was not too entrenched or too stubborn to be taught. Jesus’ appearance to him on the road to Damascus made him realize he had been wrong about the Lord. And when Ananias came and instructed him to be baptized in the name of Jesus to wash away his sins (Acts 22:16), he did so immediately (Acts 9:18).

The chief of sinners was saved. This was his point in our opening text. Despite Saul’s atrocities, the Lord’s mercy was sufficient to forgive him once he abandoned his sinful ways. Saul could only think of one reason why: “However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life” (1 Timothy 1:16, NKJV). If the Lord could save the chief, He could save anyone!

Whether we profit from studying the chief of sinners depends on whether we respond to the gospel as he did. ■



Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Greg Winget	Adam Gibson	David Gray
SONG LEADER	Carlos Garcia	Frank Himmel	J B Williams
OPENING PRAYER	Steven Turner	TBD	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Bruce Williams	Bruce Williams	
CUP	Howard Moore	Howard Moore	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Josh Baucom		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Albert Lee Harrison
CLOSING PRAYER	Kerry Gray	TBD	John Baucom