

Pastor John Miller

12-04-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: Remember

Purpose: Provoke people to remember the past to be reminded of God's hand on us and the impact our choices made on who we are today.

Truth for Today: We remember the past to be reminded of God's hand on us and how what happened to us and the choices we made impact who we are today.

Topic: New Year, Remember, Past, Faith

Text: Galatians 1:13-16

Series title: Pastors Prescription for 2026

Series purpose: Provoke people to remember the past, teach them how to face the future and make Biblical choices for spiritual growth and significance in 2026.

Remember

I. Introduction

- A. New Sunday service times (1) 8:30, 10:15, 12. (2) Bible Guide app. [Proverbs 1:3 (NLT) Their purpose (*The Proverbs*) is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair.]
- B. 3-week New Year's Series: 'Pastors Prescription for 2026'...the past, the future, and the process for spiritual growth and significance. // Dr's prescription for health
- C. Today we'll talk about the past and remember. We're who we are and where we are today because of God, what happened to us and the choices we made in the past.
- D. Title: Remember

II. Remember the Past

- A. Def. remember: recall, recollect, don't forget, recall the past.¹
- B. #1 Remember where we came from and rejoice in what God has done since saving us.
 - 1. [Gal. 1:13-16 (NLT) **You know what I was like** when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church...(*his old life before Jesus*)¹⁵ But even **before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. (Predestination)** Then it pleased him¹⁶ to **reveal his Son to me so that I** would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles...]
 - 2. Paul had a past that made him ashamed. However, God chose him, forgave him, and gave him a new purpose in life. It's the same for us. E.g. my testimony. What kind of life did you used to live? Were you violent, an adulterer, a party girl, did you steal, lie or cheat. Were you lazy, fearful or lacked purpose in life? We're different now because Jesus changes us on the inside. App Let's remember where we came from and thank God we're not there anymore.
- C. #2 Remember how God helped us in the past with trouble, problems or a crisis.
 - 1. [2 Cor. 1:8-11 (NLT)...you ought to know...about the trouble we went through... We were **crushed and overwhelmed** beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it.⁹...But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God...¹⁰ And **he did rescue us from mortal**

danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our **confidence** in him, and **he will continue to rescue us.** ¹¹ And **you are helping us by praying for us.**]

2. We've all been there. Our problem was so great we didn't think we'd make it. But we did. We may have suffered, experienced loss or pain but we made it. Like Paul, we prayed and with God's help we made it through. **If God helped us before He will help us again face future problems.** When we face future problems, let's remember what God did before and pray He'll do it again. **[Psalm 46:1 (NIV)** God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.]

D. **#3 Remember how God provided for us and met our needs in the past.**

1. **[Mt. 17:24–27 (NLT)]**...the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, “Doesn't your teacher pay the Temple tax?” ²⁵ “Yes, he does,” Peter replied...²⁷ *(Jesus said)*...go down to the lake and throw in a line. **Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin.** Take it and pay the tax for both of us.”] **E.g.** ducks fly over dropping \$100 bills
2. Usually, God doesn't send a fish with money, but He is source of our daily bread and He may use our job, a government check, unexpected gifts, sale of an asset, or send someone to help us meet a need. **E.g. GH.** Account near \$0 and the day payroll was due, someone walked in the bookkeeper's office and said I've got some money to invest in the KOG. What is the greatest need? \$30k. **App.** Somehow, somehow we made it financially all our life. Sometimes we experienced lack a long time, sometimes we had to suffer or do without but we made it. The same God who put food on our table and money in our pocket yesterday will do it tomorrow.

E. **#4 Remember the outcome of past sinful choices and the people who got us in trouble**

1. **Remember where sinful choices or acting on sinful desires took you.** **E.g.,** David's lust made him get another man's wife pregnant and then kill her husband. Coveting will cause us to steal and lose our job or go to jail. Watching porn might lead us to abusing a child and end up wearing an orange jump suit. Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you want to pay. Let's learn from past sin and chose the Lord's way
2. **Remember where the wrong crowd took you.** **[1 Cor. 15:33 (NLT)]**...“bad company corrupts good character.”] Someone gave the addict their 1st drug; someone gave the alcoholic their 1st drink; a thief asks us to go with him and promises we won't get caught; someone offered us a gun and told us to get even. The wrong friends will lead us down the wrong path; Strong, Christian friends will lead us down the path that pleases God.

III. Conclusion: **There are some things we need to forget about the past**

- A. Context: Paul remembered his religious past in Judaism, but he also remembered his sinful past, **[Phil. 3:13–14 (NLT)]**...**I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,** ¹⁴ **I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize** for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.]
- B. **God doesn't remember our past sins; we shouldn't either.** **[Ps. 103:12 (NLT)]** He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.] God forgives and forgets.

Satan wants us to remember our past to make us feel unworthy, condemned and ashamed. It's a lie and a trick. The blood of Jesus is great enough to forgive any sin.

- C. Don't be content to remember the life we lived for Jesus yesterday. Let's strive each day to live for God and do His will.

IV. 7:05 Response

- A. Prayer: Summary: 4 things to remember. (1) Condemned by past sins, (2) I'm not following Jesus, but I want to start. I'm ready to get right with God. Let me tell you how: God's Love-Problem-Solution-Decision: Believe and follow Jesus

V. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

- 1. Websters 1828 Dictionary of the American language.

VI. Supplemental material

- A. Jesus promised to take care of us. [Mt. 6:31–33 (NLT) “So don't worry...saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’³²...**your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.** ³³ **Seek the Kingdom of God above all** else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.]
- B. 2 Timothy 4:9–11 (NLT) Timothy, please come as soon as you can. ¹⁰ Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life (*ESV this present world*) and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me in my ministry.