

Remind Them ...

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. **Slide2 Family Night:** next Wed evening June 8, it will begin at *6:30pm and is **outdoor** in the courtyard and field. We will have bounce houses & **Chick Fil A & Rita's** for purchase.
- B. **Slide3 Women's Worship Night:** Tues, June 14. led by Mary Ives from Harvest Christian Fellowship. No fee. Invite someone. 7:00 pm.
- C. **Slide4 CG Summer Edition:** *Stay connected in fellowship over the summer* - sign up for a community group. Details are on our web and app.
- D. **Slide5 Unfolding gospel:** a journey through the events of the Bible with **Jesus** at the **center**. Read the Bible more fully. Find your place in God's great story. **During 2nd service on Sundays for 9 weeks begins 6/12.** Free class but must enroll online.
- E. **Slide6 Israel Info Mtg:** get details of our 2023 Israel trip. This Sun eve, June 5, 5:30pm in Agape room. Answer questions. Hear about what makes this trip so unique.
- F. **Slide7 Sneak Peek of Sun, #athirdofus** app & website. *Go check it out.*

II. Slide8 **Intro:** *Remind Them ...*

- A. N.T. Wright said, *"The creator of the World is a lavish host who has sent out a worldwide invitation to His party. We, as His messengers, must live in such a way that people will want to turn up."* Q: What makes us a people like this?
A: Christ does ... He *changes* us and He is our *only hope!*
- B. Vs.1 *Remind them ...* (remember).
 1. **Outline:** Remember what you should do. Remember what you were. Remember what God did for you. Remember what God expects of you. Remember who works for God.

III. Slide9a **REMEMBER WHAT YOU SHOULD DO (1,2) READ**

A. HOW TO BEHAVE WITH CIVIL AUTHORITIES

B. Paul summarizes the divine will for the entire congregation now.

1. Last ch. Paul helped Titus in dealing w/different groups *inside* the church
 - a) Now he wraps up with those *outside* the church. *Civil authorities & all men in general.*
2. **Slide9b** Remind them as Christians we are **citizens of earth as well as citizens of heaven.**
3. **We are to obey rulers & authorities.** These are our duties *even in pagan cultures.*
 - a) **What is it to honor only the authority you agree with?**
4. **History: *The Cretans were notoriously turbulent and quarrelsome and impatient of all authority.*** (Barclay)
 - a) **Polybius**, the Greek historian, said of them that they were constantly involved in *“insurrections, murders and internal wars.”*
 - b) No wonder why Paul places this here.

C. HOW TO BEHAVE WITH OUR FELLOW MAN

D. We should, *be an influence for good in our community in every way, demonstrating the loveliness of Christ to all through courteous & gracious behavior.* (BKC)

1. The relation of believers to non-Christians is to be governed by the principles of **love**.
2. Qualities like these are possible **only for** the person in whose heart **Christ reins supreme.**

IV. **Slide10 REMEMBER WHAT YOU WERE (3) READ**

A. **SELF-AWARENESS SHOULD INSPIRE SUCH CONDUCT** (of vs.1,2)

B. **The fall of humanity** into **sin** in Gen.3 is *bad news, very bad news.*

1. Some call it the **uncreation** because it **reversed** God's original intentions for humanity and the earth.

2. God formed all things by creation, but humanity *deformed* all things by sin
3. God's blessing has been replaced by *judgment*. Life has been undermined by *death*.
4. Fellowship with God was broken. Idolatry reigns. Relationships with others have been disrupted. Human society is divided. The world has undergone a great disturbance. It is no longer normal. Everything is upside down. The peace has been broken. Shalom has been vandalized. Things are not the way they are supposed to be. As Milton said, It's paradise lost.¹

C. Every once in awhile the *thin veneer* is pulled back from humanity & we get a true glimpse of **man's depravity**...which isn't much different than 2 dogs fighting over an old bone.

1. Oh, I'm not talking about watching nightly news about the latest crazed killer going on a rampage. I mean when God peels back the thin veneer of your heart & mine.
 - a) Remember from where you've been *salvaged* (foosball table, metal crane)
2. We as converts to Christianity were once no better than our heathen neighbors.
 - a) Christian goodness should not make a man proud; it should make us supremely grateful.
3. Remember, **God** has forgotten our sins, and **we** should too, but it does us good to remember *from whence we came*.

V. Slide11a **REMEMBER WHAT GOD DID FOR YOU (4-7) READ**

A. THE SOURCE AND METHOD OF SALVATION (4-6)

B. God loves *seemingly* hopeless cases. Unsolvable problems. Impossible situations.

1. Jer.30:12,13 *Your affliction is incurable, Your wound is severe. There is no 1 to plead your cause, That you may be bound up; You have no*

¹ Dr. David Naugle

healing medicines. But then he says in vs.17, *For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds, says the Lord.*

C. Christ came to earth (4). He washes away our sins (5a). He gives us the indwelling Spirit (5b-6). He fully justifies us (7a). He assures us of eternal life (7b).

1. What a great summary of the Christian life: "Christ **died** to be our Savior, **and lives** to be our Lord."

D. Perhaps no passage in the NT sets out *the work of Christ* for us more clearly than this.

1. Read this & try to find something **you** did. This is **100%** what **GOD's** done
2. He is the source & method of salvation.

E. **Slide11b 5 Fun Facts:**

1. Jesus put **us** into *a new relationship w/God* [from **Judge** to **Father**]

2. Love & grace, are gifts we could not earn.

3. It's because of the Word & the H.S.

4. It brings forgiveness for past sins.

a) In his mercy God *does not* hold our sins against us.

b) Once a man was mourning gloomily to Augustine about his sins. Augustine said, "*look away from your sins and look to God.*"

5. Hope of even greater things.

a) The Christian is the person who knows, *the wonder of past sin forgiven, the thrill of present life w/Christ, & the hope of the greater life which is yet to be.*

F. **Slide12a (5) Washing of regeneration** - Amy Carmichael wrote, *If the living God who made **the tide** and **washes the shores daily**, cannot wash away from my mind the caustic remarks, the ugliness, the wrongs in someone else then I haven't even entered into **Calvary love.*** [washed away sins give us: *new birth & new life*]

1. **Regeneration** = *palin-genesia* (new genesis) new beginning, new birth.

2. The point here is that when a man accepts Christ as Savior and Lord, life **begins** all over again. There is a newness about life which can be likened only to a new birth.
3. Have you been born-again? I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again (born from above). (Jn.3:3)

G. He came to earth. He washed sins away. He gives us the dwelling of the Holy Spirit. He fully justifies us. He assures us of eternal life.

H. Slide 12b PRESENT STATE AND FUTURE HOPE (7)

I. Justified by His grace – declared righteous, *right in His sight*.

1. 2 men were caught stealing sheep. An S was placed on their foreheads. 1 man left town, the other stayed. Later the people forgot what the S was for ... one remarked, *"I think for Saint!"*

a) Spurgeon used to say, *Let your repentance be as wide spread as your sin.*

VI. Slide 13a REMEMBER WHAT GOD EXPECTS OF YOU (8-11) READ

A. HOW DO I DEAL WITH CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES (8,9)

B. ACTIONS (8)

C. (8) Works is a major theme in this short letter. *He wants us to...*

1. Be a pattern/example of good works (2:7). Be zealous/passionate for good works (2:14). Be ready for every good work (3:1) Be careful to maintain good works (3:8). Learn to maintain good works (3:14).

D. Notice both Faith & Works? It's like inhaling & exhaling.

1. Christians **must** have both. You can't have one w/o the other!
2. When **H. M. Stanley** went to Africa in 1871 to find and report on **David Livingstone**, he spent several months in the missionary's company, carefully observing the man and his work. Livingstone never spoke to Stanley about spiritual matters, but Livingstone's loving and patient compassion for the African people was beyond Stanley's comprehension.

He could not understand how the missionary could have such love for and patience with the backward, pagan people among whom he had so long ministered. Livingstone literally spent himself in untiring service for those whom he had no reason to love except for Christ's sake. Stanley wrote in his journal, "When I saw that unwearied patience, that unflagging zeal, and those enlightened sons of Africa, I became a Christian at his side, **though** he never spoke to me one word."

E. **ABSTINENCE** (9)

F. Life is too short ... don't involve yourself in arguing over foolish & unanswerable questions. There is a *danger* that a man may think himself **religious** *because* he discusses **religious questions**.

1. It is much easier to **discuss** theological questions **at church**, **than** to be **kind** and **considerate** and **helpful** at **home**, **or** **efficient** and **diligent** and **honest** at **work**.

G. **Ask yourself?** Does this discussion promote **knowledge** more than **love**?

1. These are referring to questions where **Scripture is silent; on mysteries which belong to God alone; upon prophecies of doubtful interpretation; wise men will avoid them.**

2. Our business is neither to **ask** nor **answer** foolish questions, **but** to **avoid** them altogether.

H. **Slide13b HOW DO I DEAL WITH CONTROVERSIAL INDIVIDUALS** (10,11)

I. **Steps: Avoid**(9); **then warn**(admonition) twice(10); **then reject** them.

J. (11) **Warped** - this person is *turned inside out* (lit).

1. I think of the **shark**, or the **Sea Cucumber** that can pull off **eversion** (turn an organ/stomach inside out). **Sea Cuc** defense mechanism, puts off a **toxic chemical**.

K. **Sinning** - present-tense verb, *he willfully continues in sin*.

L. **Self condemned** - he refuses to heed counsel, **which amounts to his own condemnation of himself.**

VII.Slide14 **REMEMBER WHO WORKS FOR GOD (12-15) READ**

- A. (12) Paul would send others, **Artemas & Tychicus**, to relieve Titus, **so** Titus could travel to *Nicopolis* to meet him for the winter.
- B. (13) **Supply the need of traveling missionaries**, *see that they lack nothing!*
- C. (14) **Meet urgent needs.** In Development work we see it as 3-fold solution.
1. **Relief** work is to be *a short term solution* during **crisis** or **disaster**. (some ministries are still doing *Relief* work in Haiti, since 2010 earthquake)
 2. **Then** you move into **Rehabilitation**, *a mid-term solution*, working in partnership w/locals.
 3. **Then** we move into **Development** as *a Long term solution*.
- D. (15) **Grace be with you all** – We are **saved** by **grace**, **sustained** by **grace**, & we **enter into our inheritance** by **grace**.
- E. Keywords: remember, goodness, Holy Spirit, hope, reborn, salvation.