

**“The Purpose of Reminders  
in the Process of Sanctification”**

*Sermon Notes*

➤ **May we never forget the sanctifying design of reminders**

1. Reminders are absolutely critical for those who already know and are established in the truth of Jesus Christ (v.12)
2. Reminders serve to awaken, orient, and animate us toward weighty biblical realities (vv. 13a, c)
3. Reminders build us into eternal truths and wean us off of temporal teachers (v.13b, 14)
4. Reminders require diligence and patience on behalf of the one doing the reminding (v.15a)
5. Reminders are past-rooted in order to insure their present and future relevance (v.15b)

**Next Week: “The MEFC 2025 Vision - Evidences of God’s Grace”**

**MEFC Community Group Study Guide**  
For the week of December 29th - January 4th

**Getting Started**

1. How good is your memory? Rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = total amnesiac, 10 = elephant)

If you need help evaluating yourself accurately, try answering the following questions...

- Which pair of shoes did you wear yesterday?
- Who is the next person in your family to celebrate a birthday?
- What book of the Bible are we currently studying at Mound Free Church?
- How many oceans are there on earth? What are their names?
- If you are a married man, what is the anniversary of your first date with your wife? Wedding date? Kids' birthdays (if applicable)?
- If you are a married woman, what was the name of your husband's boss at his former place of employment?
- Extra credit (if you're older than 40): how many verses of "We Didn't Start the Fire", "American Pie", or "Stairway to Heaven" can you sing off the top of your head?

**Digging Deeper**

2. When you're listening to a sermon in church, and you hear the preacher begin to expound on a truth with which you're already familiar...how do you typically respond? Why?

**Open Your Bible to Genesis 41:51...**

3. The Scriptures are clear that there are certain things we *ought* to forget. Look up the following references and discover some reasons to praise God if you happen to be a person with a poor memory. Summarize each one in a few words (i.e. "We ought to forget....because.....")

- Genesis 41:51 \_\_\_\_\_
- Deuteronomy 24:19 \_\_\_\_\_
- Phiippians 3:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

Forgetful as we are, the Scriptures above demonstrate that some things really are easy to remember and tough to forget. What do you think is the key to forgetting these things? How does Philippians 3:7-11 provide an answer for us?

4. In Philippians 3:1, the Apostle Paul tells the church that: “To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and it is safe for you.” Later on in the letter he says: “For many, of whom I have often told you with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ” (3:18).

Why does Paul say (in 3:1) that to repeat himself if “no trouble to me”? Why is it “safe” for the Philippians to read the “same things” in this letter once more? Why do warnings such as the one in 3:18) bear repeating? Explain.

5. A number of years back, Don Carson (former professor of New Testament at our EFCA seminary - Trinity Evangelical Divinity School from 1978-2017) gave this remarkable reflection on the nature of Bible teaching and the centrality of the gospel. Take some time to read and reflect on it together as a group:

“If I have learned anything in 35 or 40 years of teaching, it is that students don’t learn everything I teach them. What they learn is what I am excited about, the kinds of things I emphasize again and again and again and again. That had better be the gospel.

If the gospel—even when you are orthodox—becomes something which you primarily assume, but what you are excited about is what you are doing in some sort of social reconstruction, you will be teaching the people that you influence that the gospel really isn’t all that important. You won’t be saying that—you won’t even mean that—but that’s what you will be teaching. And then you are only half a generation away from losing the gospel.

Make sure that in your own practice and excitement, what you talk about, what you think about, what you pray over, what you exude confidence over, joy over, what you are enthusiastic about is Jesus, the gospel, the cross. And out of that framework, by all means, let the transformed life flow.”<sup>1</sup>

6. What is one thing that you would be wise to remember from this week’s sermon or this community group study? Seeking to apply question #3, what is one thing that by God’s grace you would like to do a better job forgetting? As you close your time together, don’t *forget* to highlight these things in prayer.

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<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/carson-people-dont-learn-what-i-teach-them-they-learn-what-im-excited-about/>. Accessed 12/27/24 @ 9am.