

## **CHRISTIAN, DO YOU REMEMBER...**

### **Ephesians 2:1-7**

**Introduction:** As one gets older things long forgotten seem to come back to mind and it is most enjoyable to remember those "good old days" and often one digs out old photographs and the old high school annual. Sometimes a husband and wife sit at the breakfast table and talk about when the kids were little and how different each one was from the other.

One who has been a christian for many years has probably forgotten some things that were at one time very important. Time has a way of innocently covering up even important events. Christian when was the last time you gave thought to what it was once like to not be a christian?

### **I. DO YOU REMEMBER NOT EVER THINKING ABOUT GODLY THINGS?**

1. Remember when you were unaffected, uninterested, even dead concerning the Creator, the Redeemer, divine things, spiritual things, eternal life?
  - Why you didn't even realize such things existed, much less be interested.
  - You didn't know about spiritual life, spiritual objects, or spiritual anything.
  - You never even knew that God could make Himself know, or really cared.
  - You saw nothing special in God, nothing in Jesus, sin, the Bible. All this was foolishness.
  - You didn't feel guilty about much of anything especially wickedness, God's love, the Cross, or even that in God's eyes you were destined for Hell.
  
2. You didn't know you were spiritually dead, but knew you were very much alive otherwise.
  - You were caught up in all sorts of interests that kept you from becoming interested in Godly things, but didn't know it.
  - You were involved in all the world was bringing your way and never gave any thought to the Creator, the Redeemer, your soul or eternal matters.
  - Your whole existence was built around pleasure, things, honor, recognition from others with no thought of "after all this, then what?"
  
3. You were alive to the world and sin but dead to spiritual things and all the while numbered among those who would receive God's wrath.
  - You didn't know that God's justice cried out for your destruction but God's mercy intervened and you were spared.
  - You didn't know you were dead and insensible to the threats of heaven as God's judgment cried out for your destruction.
  - You didn't know that you were covered in sin, cursed, damned, on the broad road to destruction, hell was opening wide for you and death stood waiting to hurl you down to it's quenchless flames.

### **II. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU?**

1. While you were dead, like bones in a grave, God made you alive.
  - God picked you out and began to move toward causing you to see His love, His purpose for your life.

- God sent someone to you, to influence you, as Jesus called Lazarus from the grave, you, too were called from your grave.
  - Your attention was aroused and you began to be interested in religious things, your slumbering conscience was awakened and you began to look at what was going on in your life and how you had been living.
  - Little by little you became more interested in spiritual things and less interested in what you had been spending your time doing.
  - You still were not aware that in God's eyes you were dead and cursed because of your sins and were not yet able to grasp spiritual things.
  - You tried to do your own thing about religion, but never was satisfied, that uneasy feeling was still there.
  - You began to see what guilt, sin and eternity were and that Jesus seemed to be the One who could help.
  - You learned that you had to submit, unconditionally to God, giving up your own efforts to fix things and to turn yourself over to the very One you learned to fear.
  - You found yourself in a new world. The Bible began to become clear, Jesus became important and things you once lived for became insignificant . Old things passed away, all things became new. You had been born again.
2. God had raised you up from the spiritually dead and gave you a heavenly place.
    - You were freed from guilt, God's wrath and were added to God's family, given all the privileges of a child of God, joint heir with Jesus, will be raised from the dead, be given a new body and some day will sit down with Jesus forever.
  3. What did God do all that for you? It wasn't anything you did or who you were.
    - God did it out of His goodness, love and grace and for His Son, Jesus.
    - God saved you and called you out of His own purpose and grace through Jesus Christ.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. God did all this for you dear Christian.
  - Do you need anything else to remind you that you ought to love Him, to praise Him, and to live for Him only?
  - What does this world have to offer you that could cause you to leave God and all He has done, is doing and shall do for you?
  - Will you not continue to be grateful, giving your life, your soul as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which, by the way, is your reasonable service?
2. All this God has done for you, and He wants to do more. He will love you throughout all eternity and you shall never die. What God began in you, He will continue forever.
3. Remembering what it was like before becoming a Christian and remembering all the years since, the wonderful things God has done, should cause one to become re-aware of those around who are still living like you, a Christian, once lived, without God, damned, dead, and on the way to Hell and cause you to take the privileged opportunity to be used by God to help turn someone to God as you once were years ago.