

The Blessing of Forgetfulness

by Hendrik Joubert

I do realize that forgetfulness has a negative connotation, but have you ever considered the blessing of being able to forget? I am fairly confident that you have found yourself in an embarrassing situation at some time or another when you wished the earth would open up to swallow you. Think of how many times this may have happened, then think of every one specifically. You will remember some, but not all – and come to think of it you are pleased that you cannot remember them all.

The flipside, having absolutely no memory of what happened the day before, is a terrible thought. We build upon our memories, often learning through them in a practical way. What if you could remember, or absolutely forget, at will. What if you could decide to put those memories, which make you feel badly out of your mind forever – and forever treasure those you consider special?

What we really need is to be able to control the memory of others. We need to be able to wipe out the memory of those who were with us at the time we embarrassed ourselves. Think of the possible embarrassment walking into the presence of all those present when you embarrassed yourself the first time, with no clue whatsoever. Wait a minute, would one feel embarrassed about what you forgot? The point is we would like for those moments to disappear from memory, theirs and ours.

Consider the following statement: "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE." **Hebrews 8:12**. Have you considered the difference between forgiving someone, and totally wiping from your memory what they have done against you? Think of the saying that goes something like this: "I will forgive you, but I will never forget what you have done..." Does that really amount to forgiveness?

Under the covenant ratified with the blood of His Son, God promises to remember the sins of those who enter into this covenant relationship no more; He will wipe what we have done against Him from His memory. That is a baffling thought – how is it possible for the all-knowing God to forget? Nothing is beyond the power of the all-powerful God.

The graciousness of God may be what causes many to think lightly of sin? Consider the magnitude of the punishment for the original sin committed by Adam and Eve. Consider the fact that it took the sacrifice of God to correct the situation. The words recorded in **Hebrews 10:26-31**: *For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,²⁷ but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.²⁹ How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?³⁰ For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."³¹ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

More than anything else one should desire for God to forget about our sins against Him, and who will not be moved by the following invitation by the Almighty Holy God: ***Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.***

The invitation is not without condition. ***"If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land;²⁰ "But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword." Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Isaiah 1:18-20.*** Under the New Covenant we can have our sins wiped out by calling upon the name of the Lord, making an appeal to God for a clear conscience through baptism. (**Romans 10:13; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16.**) It is under this covenant that God informs us through the Hebrew writer that He will be *merciful to our iniquities* and that He *will remember our sins no more.*