

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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I FORGOT

VERNON TEAGARDEN

Today is January 31, and I don't know where the time has gone. However, it dawned on me this morning that I have forgotten something, and that is the publishing of the January Sower. I didn't just momentarily forget about it, I "completely" forgot about it. I really don't have an excuse for forgetting except that I am now 65 and I guess forgetting things comes with the territory. Those of you my age or older understand what I am talking about. For you younger folk let me just say, your day is coming.

Now what is really ironic about this is that I just preached a lesson two weeks ago on the subject of memory and the importance of remembering certain things. And yet, what happened? I forget to publish the monthly bulletin. Can you be-

lieve it? Well, I certainly can, and am reminded of what the apostle Peter wrote in 2 Pet. 3:1-8, "Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,⁶ by which the world that then existed perished,

being flooded with water.⁷ But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." Three times in this passage Peter mentioned something about memory, verses 1, 5, and 8.

God places great emphasis on memory. Over time He has given several memorials. During the Patriarchal age he gave the rainbow as memorial (Gen. 9:14-16) to remind us that He will never again destroy all flesh by means of an universal flood. To Israel God gave the Feast of the Passover (Exod. 13) as a reminder of what He did for them in Egypt. And today we

The Southeast Church of Christ meets at:

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SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study:

10:00 am

Worship:

10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:

7:30 pm"

we have the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:24, 25) as a weekly reminder of what He has done for us.

We are to "remember" our Creator in the days of youth (Eccl. 12:1). Before the evil days come and the years draw near when we say, "I have no pleasure in them."

We are to remember the consequences of disobedience. As Jesus indicated to us in Luke 17:32 where He plainly tells us to "Remember Lot's wife." Why? Because she forever will be remembered as one who "disobeyed" God's plain command to "not look back"

Fallen Christians should remember how they once lived (Rev. 2:5). "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent."

Yes, God who created the mind and knows how it works better than we do, has placed great emphasis on memory and understands that from time to time we need to be reminded of certain things. I for one am thankful for God's gift to us of memory. Now, if I can only "remember to use it!" I'll do my best to not forget about publishing February's bulletin on time, but I'm not making any promises. Maybe you can help by "reminding" me, if you "remember" to do so!

Saul, a Man of Tarsus

Leon Mauldin

In the city of Damascus, the Lord sent a devout disciple named Ananias to Saul, saying, "Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one named Saul, a man of Tarsus: for behold, he prayeth" (Acts 9:11, ASV). Saul's original purpose in travelling there was to arrest followers of Jesus and take them to Jerusalem for trial. That was before he saw and heard the resurrected Christ! Though initially understandably reluctant, Ananias located Saul and explained the Lord's plans for him, his apostolic commission, with its far-reaching implications. Obediently, Saul "arose and was baptized," (Acts 9:18), and would hereafter be found "preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy" (Gal. 1:23, NASB). Saul, better known as the apostle Paul, tirelessly preached, "publically and from house to house" (Acts 20:20), and became the author of thirteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament.

Tarsus was the capital of the Roman province of Cilicia, located on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. It was a cultural and intellectual center in the first century. Fant and Reddish quote Strabo's description of Tarsus as having "surpassed Athens, Alexandria, or any other place that can be named where there have been schools and lectures of philoso-

phers" (324).

Tarsus was strategically situated just south of the Cilician Gates, which was the main pass through the Taurus Mountains. It was through that pass that the major road connecting Syria to Asia Minor traversed. "Paul almost certainly travelled through this pass on his second and third missionary journeys" (ESV Bible Atlas, p. 242).

Not much can be seen of Tarsus of Paul's day, because the modern city with its population of 350,000 + is built on the ancient ruins. . .

Though Tarsus was Paul's home, as a youth he was "brought up in this city (Jerusalem), educated with strictness under Gamaliel according to the law of our ancestors" (Acts 22:3, NET). After his conversion there was a period where again Paul was in Tarsus (Acts 9:30), prior to his work in Antioch (Acts 11:25-26).

What A Difference

Author Unknown

If we noticed little pleasures
 As we noticed little pains;
 If we quite forget our losses
 And remembered all our gains;
 If we looked for people's virtues
 And their faults refused to see,
 What a comfortable and happy,
 Cheerful place this world
 would be!