



BAPTISM SUNDAY
Do Not Forget and Do Not Forsake
the LORD Your God!
Hosea 13:1-6, 9

“Moses warned the people of Israel, “Take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life” (Deut. 4:9). This was a warning against the forgetfulness that characterized the children of Israel when they were in the wilderness. They had seen God’s great acts of judgment exercised against Egypt. They had experienced God’s great deliverance of them through the Red Sea. They had experienced God’s provision for them in the manna and the water from the rock. Yet, when they heard the report of the spies concerning the Land of Promise, they forgot all that they had seen, all that they had experienced. In the distress and fear of the moment, they forgot God.”

Ben Shaw

“We must hold boldly and fearlessly to our baptism, and hold it up against all sins and terrors of conscience, and humbly say: ‘I know full well that I have not a single work which is pure, but I am baptized, and through my baptism, God, who cannot lie, has bound himself in a covenant with me, not to count my sin against me, but to slay my sin, and to blot it out!’”

Martin Luther

“We must recall the memory of our baptism and fortify our mind with it, that we may always be sure and confident of the forgiveness of our sins.”

John Calvin

I. God’s People have always been *Prone to Forget the LORD*

OT Kings, Priests and People all “***Forgot the LORD their God***”

- A.** They Forgot their *Special Relationship with God* (**Deut. 7:6**)
 - B.** They Forgot their *Obligation to God’s Holy Law* (**Joshua 22:5**)
 - C.** They Forgot God’s *Powerful Deliverance of Them* (**Deut. 15:15**)
- Psalms 103:2-5 *Forget not all his benefits!***

II. And, Once you *Forget the LORD, You Will Easily Forsake the LORD*

Forsake: “To abandon, leave, quit, turn away from, neglect, or stray”

- A.** Manasseh, Amon and Jos: **2 Kings 21:19-22**
- B.** The LORD: **Joshua 1:5, Deuteronomy 31:6**

III. But We Must Not Forget, Nor Forsake the LORD:

He is Our ***One True Helper***

- A.** Our ***Many False Helps!*** (Egypt, Assyria, Kings, Princes, Horses)
- B.** Our ***One True Helper: YHWH***

Ruminate (Think deeply and often on this): **1 Chronicles 28:9, Isaiah 49:16, John 15:4**

Hosea 13:1-6, 9

1 When Ephraim spoke, people trembled; he was exalted in Israel.

But he became guilty of Baal worship and died.

2 Now they sin more and more; they make idols for themselves from their silver, cleverly fashioned images, all of them the work of craftsmen.

It is said of these people, "They offer human sacrifices! They kiss calf-idols!"

3 Therefore they will be like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears, like chaff swirling from a threshing floor, like smoke escaping through a window.

4 "But I have been the Lord your God ever since you came out of Egypt.

You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me.

5 I cared for you in the wilderness, in the land of burning heat.

6 When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.

9 "You are destroyed, Israel, because you are against me, against your helper.

Deuteronomy 15:15

Always remember and never forget: You were slaves in the land of Egypt, but the LORD your God delivered you!

Deuteronomy 7:6

You are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

Joshua 22:5

Be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

2 Kings 21:19-22

Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem two years. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done. He followed completely the ways of his father, worshiping the idols his father had worshiped, and bowing down to them. He **forsook** the LORD, the God of his ancestors, and did not walk in obedience to him.

Joshua 1:5

As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

1 Chronicles 28:9

Acknowledge God and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

Isaiah 49:15b-16a

I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.

John 15:4

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.