

*“Remember the word to Your servant, upon which you have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life” (Ps. 119:49-50).*

God’s word is the only valid and viable cause of our hope. It is not how we feel, how good we are, how bad we are (or were) or how repentant and rotten we feel about ourselves. Nor may we hope in how much we have done, how successful we are in our lives and ministries, how many there are of us, or how few, how popular we are in the world or how unpopular. Nothing can give us solid unshakable hope but the unchanging word of God. It is our comfort in all sorts of affliction; therefore we need it constantly. It is God’s word that has quickened us, made us alive, and it is His word that shapes and orders our living, our walk, that gives meaning to our very existence.

Now the Psalmist asks God to *remember!* Can God remember? Can He forget? Not in the sense in which we understand these terms, for God lives in eternity where there is no past or future. Everything is now, always has been and forever will be now. There is nothing in the past to remember. We, however, do exist in time, and for us there is a past and a future. We may therefore call God’s attention to something that may be in our history or our future. Those works and words of God, which He has revealed to us, may, and should be invoked in times of need. Here are a few of those times set forth for us in scripture:

Exodus 32:13. God’s elect people have sinned, forgotten God, made themselves a golden calf and turned their worship to this worthless idol. God has told Moses to “let me alone that I may destroy them, wipe them out”. Moses intercedes.

The ground upon which he pleads is not pity for the sinners, but the glory and integrity of the Almighty. *“Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants You swore by Your Own Self, and said to them....”*. Their hope in this dark hour on the brink of utter reprobation under the fierce wrath of God was His word.

Nehemiah 1:8. The people are now under God’s deep chastisement. They are in great desolation, pitiful ruin. The intercession of the interceding prophet calls upon God to *“Remember, I pray, the word that your commanded Moses Your servant”*. That word promised a judgment of scattering for their sin, but it also promised a regathering upon their repentance. The Almighty’s attention is called to the mercies He promised in His word.

David, in Psalm 25: 6-7 has the audacity to ask God to be selective in His memory. He pleads with Him to forget the sins of his youth, but to *“remember, O Lord your tender mercies and lovingkindness, for they have been from old”*, and *“according to your mercy, remember me”*. He has good grounds for asking God to do such things for in His the word of His New Covenant, for Christ’s sake, He has promised to remember the sins and the iniquities of His people no more.

Only one man in the New Testament calls upon God to remember. The dying thief turned to the Suffering Savior and asked to be remembered when He

came into His kingdom. He stands as an example for us all. God is pleased to save hell-deserving sinners. He is doing it every day. Why should we stand afar off and fail to intreat Him in our own behalf. In the words of the hymn: "*While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by!*"

*C. M.*