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**A Memorial a Day Keeps the Weariness Away**

Joshua 4

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Galatia…

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**9**So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. **10**Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

“What if we are getting weary in doing good?”

This stint the my family and I have had with COVID, has made me a bit weary. And I am sure that there are many of you out there who, from time to time, grow weary in doing good.

“How can we keep ourselves from growing weary in doing good?”

I am going to answer both questions with one word…

“Remember.”

It is a fitting subject for Memorial Day weekend and in order to illustrate how remembering keeps us from growing weary let’s turn to Chapter 3 in the book of Joshua…we will begin in verse 7:

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7 The Lord told Joshua, “Today I will begin to make you a great leader in the eyes of all the Israelites. They will know that I am with you, just as I was with Moses. 8 Give this command to the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant: ‘When you reach the banks of the Jordan River, take a few steps into the river and stop there.’

9 So Joshua told the Israelites, “Come and listen to what the Lord your God says. 10 Today you will know that the living God is among you. He will surely drive out the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites ahead of you. 11 Look, the Ark of the Covenant, which belongs to the Lord of the whole earth, will lead you across the Jordan River! 12 Now choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. 13 The priests will carry the Ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall.”

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14 So the people left their camp to cross the Jordan, and the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. 15 It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river’s edge, 16 the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho. 17 Meanwhile, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the riverbed as the people passed by. They waited there until the whole nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan on dry ground.

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4 When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 2 “Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. 3 Tell them, ‘Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.’” 4 So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel. 5 He told them, “Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the Lord your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder—twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

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6 We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 7 Then you can tell them, ‘They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant went across.’ These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever.” 8 So the men did as Joshua had commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan River, one for each tribe, just as the Lord had told Joshua. They carried them to the place where they camped for the night and constructed the memorial there.

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9 Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this day…

We are going to skip over to verse 21…

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21 Then Joshua said to the Israelites, “In the future your children will ask, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 22 Then you can tell them, ‘This is where the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ 23 For the Lord your God dried up the river right before your eyes, and he kept it dry until you were all across, just as he did at the Red Sea when he dried it up until we had all crossed over. 24 He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the Lord’s hand is powerful, and so you might fear the Lord your God forever.” 5 When all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings who lived along the Mediterranean coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan River so the people of Israel could cross, they lost heart and were paralyzed with fear because of them.

(Joshua 4:21–5:1, NLT)

How do you remember what God has done for you?

God instructed these people to build an altar to memorialize what God had done for them. One author wrote of biblical altars…

An altar is any structure upon which offerings such as sacrifices are made for religious purposes. It was usually a raised platform with a flat surface. There are over four hundred references to altars in the Bible. The word altar is first used in Genesis 8:20 when Noah built an altar to the Lord after leaving the ark. However, the idea was present as early as Genesis 4:3–4 when Cain and Abel brought their sacrifices to the Lord. They most likely presented their offerings on some type of altar, even though the word altar is not used in that passage.

An altar always represented a place of consecration. Before God gave His Law to Moses, men made altars wherever they were out of whatever material was available. An altar was often built to commemorate an encounter with God that had a profound impact upon someone. Abram (Genesis 12:7), Isaac (Genesis 26:24–25), Jacob (Genesis 35:3), David (1 Chronicles 21:26), and Gideon (Judges 6:24) all built altars and worshiped after having a unique encounter with God. An altar usually represented a person’s desire to consecrate himself fully to the Lord.

God had worked in a person’s life in such a way that the person desired to create something tangible to memorialize it.

I think that it is really cool that God uses our senses to help us remember Him.

Sight, smell, touch, hearing, and taste can all be very effective ways to help us to remember what God has done for us.

Do you journal?

Through pictures? Videos?

Through writing things down on your calendar?

Maybe you go through your Facebook memories from year to year??

Some people use Tattoos? Remember it is said that Jesus has “King of Kings and Lord of Lords written on His robe and on His thigh.”

Maybe you collect little trinkets to remind you of places you’ve been and things you’ve done.

So how do we keep from growing weary? And how do we snap out of it when we have grown weary in doing good?

Remember what Jesus has done for us. So how do you remember what Jesus has done for you?

Is it by reading your Bible daily?

Is it by wearing a cross around your neck?

Is it by taking Communion once a month?

Is it by making sure you are attending church regularly?

Maybe it is by going out in the woods and considering God’s handiwork in creation?

Maybe having a big family bbq with food, drink, games, and fireworks helps you memorialize how good God is.

Do whatever it is that will help you remember…

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…we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up.

(Hebrews 12:1–3, NLT)

We grow weary in doing good if we are trying to remember and account for our good works, we will rejuvenated and refreshed when we remember Christ and His finished work for us. If you remember the story we read in Joshua you will remember that the people of Israel were helpless in their ability to cross the Jordan. They were dependent on God’s deliverance.

What has God through Christ done for you? I often forget, but the Bible serves as a great way to jog my memory, the writer of Hebrews wrote:

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24 For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf. 25 And he did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal. 26 If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice.

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27 And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, 28 so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

(Hebrews 9:24–28, NLT)

Remember, Jesus has received the judgment for our sins, and when He returns it will be to bring us in to our most glorious stage of salvation.

But here is the deal. If you don’t have any way of committing these things to memory, or any “altars of stone” built to remind you of what Jesus has done, then you will have a tendency to become weary. In the book of Samuel it is written:

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12 Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means “the stone of help”), for he said, “Up to this point the Lord has helped us!”

(1 Samuel 7:12, NLT)

How do you keep from growing weary in doing good?

By setting up memorials of the good things God has done…By remembering:

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5 Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory. 3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

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6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. 9 And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. 10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Do something…that you can taste, touch, smell, see, or hear, or maybe something that brings all the senses in at once. Do it as a memorial of what Jesus has done for you.