

GOD IS FAITHFUL Text: Revelation 5:8–10

He Will Not Forget His Promises or His People

Introduction:

- 1. We Have Been Through a lot together in this year...**
 - a. A Global Pandemic... A Quarantine Order that forces us to worship from home for 2 months
 - b. Sister Margie had COVID-19 and recovered from it
 - c. My mom's heart stopped for 6 minutes... and now is able to attend worship again
 - d. We were able to help 4 Christian families who lost their homes to the fires
 - 2. We Are Living through a Difficult Time—a time of isolation and fear**
 - a. Does God Know When His People Are Suffering?
 - b. Does God Know When We Are Treated Unfairly?
 - 3. This is NOT the 1st Time or the Last, that God's People Will Experience Hardship**

God Has Revealed to Us: A BOOK, a BOTTLE, and a BOWL
That shows that God will not Forget His promises or His people!
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I. A BOOK—FOR REMEMBRANCE (Malachi 3:16)

A. DOES GOD KNOW WHEN HIS PEOPLE ARE TREATED UNFAIRLY?

1. Hardship and Discouragement Caused Some to Question...

Is There No Benefit To Serving the Lord? (Malachi 3:13-15)

- a) What Good is it to serve God when the wicked are blessed and the righteous suffer?
- b) The Psalmist asks this question in Psalm 73...
- c) It Was Asked Again in Malachi's Day...

2. It's the Same Fairness Button That Get's Pushed Today...

- a) Why are Cannabis Stores Essential Business but Churches are shut down?
- b) Why Do the Wicked Get away with Murder?
—But Christians Get Accused of the Smallest Things?
- c) How Can They Speak Lies and Are Loved for it?
—But We Speak the Truth and Are Hated for It?

B. THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE (v.16)

1. Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another:

- a) Discouraged and Defeated, the people of God came together...
- b) They spoke to one another – and encouraged each other in the LORD.
"When the fire of religion burns low, true believers should draw the nearer together, to keep the holy flame alive. Coals separated soon go out." (Robert Jamieson)

2. When God's people Encourage One Another in the Faith,

—the LORD listens from heaven!

3. A Book of Remembrance was Written—

not so God would not forget—but so we don't Forget that God Knows!

C. THEY SHALL BE MINE SAYS THE LORD (v.17-18)

1. How Are Christians like jewels?

- They are strong and durable.
- They are prized for their luster.
- They are prized for their rarity.
- They are made by God alone.
- They are of all different sizes, yet they are all jewels.
- They are found all over the world.
- They are associated with royalty.
- They are protected.
- Some are hidden and undiscovered.
- Some are not yet polished. (David Guzik)

2. Don't Worry About God Forgetting—You Are His Jewels, His Children

- a) Like a Charm Necklace that mothers wear around their neck...
with the birth stones of each of the children
 - b) Or a Mother Who Keeps a Diary and reads the precious memories she recorded
over the years (**Isaiah 49:14–16**)
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II. A BOTTLE—FOR TEARS (Psalm 56:8)

A. DOES GOD KNOW WHEN HIS PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING?

1. Do Our Tears Fall Unnoticed by God?

If God Knows When a Sparrow Falls—Do You Think He Doesn't Know when a Tear Falls from the Cheek of His Own Children?

- a) David Was on the Run, Persecuted by His Enemies,
and even targeted for his life by Saul the King
- b) But David Knew that God Knows every tear and the reason for every tear.

2. King Hezekiah was told by the prophet that his life on earth was ending, he needed to get his house in order... (2 Kings 20:2–5**)**

- a) God Hears Hezekiah's Prayer and Sees His Tears and Sent Isaiah back to him

B. THE TEARS OF GOD'S PEOPLE ARE RECORDED IN HIS WORD...

1. Abraham wept when he buried Sarah.
2. Jacob wept when he wrestled the Angel.
3. Joseph Wept when He Saw His Brothers
4. David and Jonathan wept together.
5. Hezekiah wept over his sickness.
6. Josiah wept over the sin of his nation.
7. Jeremiah was the weeping prophet.
8. Jesus Wept Over Jerusalem
9. Jesus Wept at the tomb of His friend Lazarus

10. Peter Wept Bitterly after Betraying the Lord
11. Mary Wept at the Tomb of Jesus
12. John Wept When He Received the Revelation on Island of Patmos

It Has Been Said: 'Tears Are Words That Cannot Be Spoken'

C. GOD KNOWS OUR TEARS AND ONE DAY WILL WIPE THEM AWAY

1. God notices our tears (Ps 34:15)
2. God is touched by our tears (Jn 11:33)
3. God remembers our tears and knows the reason (Ps. 56:8)
4. God removes our tears (Ps. 116:8)
5. Although we still sorrow—we still have hope (Matthew 5:4)
6. And One Day Will Wipe Away Every Tear (Isa. 25:8)
7. Forever (Rev. 7:14-17; 21:4)

Not only Does God have a Book of Remembrance... and a Bottle for our Tears

III. A BOWL—FOR PRAYERS (Revelation 5:8)

A. JOHN IS BANISHED TO THE ISLAND OF PATMOS

1. **A Wave of Persecution against Christians has spread across the Empire**
 - a) One by One the Apostles Have Been Killed for the Faith
 - b) And Now John is the Last Living Apostle, Banished for His Faith
2. **Does God Know His People Are Suffering? He Gives a Vision to John**
 - a) A Vision of Jesus as the Lamb Slain for the Sins of World
 - b) And the Lamb took the Scroll to Open it (Revelation 5:8-10)
3. **They Reason They Sang a New Song was Because Not the Blood of Jesus Redeemed us and Purchased us to be a Kingdom of Priests!**
 - a) And Our Prayers Go Before God as Incense Before His Throne
 - b) Do You Think of Your Prayers as Sweet Smelling Incense before God?
 - c) Do You Think of Your Prayers Changing Events on Earth? (Revelation 8:1-5)

B. DOES GOD HEAR THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE?

1. **HE HEARS THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH...**
 - a) **Theres Something Beautiful About Christian Brothers & Sisters Praying**
 - (1) But Sometimes We Think God is Not Hearing Our Prayers
 - b) **Peter was arrested by Herod and thrown in Prison... (Acts 12:1-5)**
 - (1) Herod Has Already Killed James, the Brother of John
 - (2) And Now Peter Faces Death So the Church Immediately Began Praying for Him
 - c) **And God Answered their Prayer by Sending an Angel to Free Peter! (v.6-11)**
 - (1) Peter is at the door of Mary's House Knocking while they are praying inside
 - (2) A Little Girl Answers the Door and it's Peter!
 - (3) But She's So Excited she leaves Peter locked out and runs to tell the others!
 - d) **They Don't Believe it's Peter!—So They Keep Praying! (v.12-15)**

- (1) Meanwhile Peter Keeps Knocking Until They Let Him In! (v.16–17)
- (2) They're Astonished! They Didn't Think God Had Answered their Prayer!
- e) **God Answered This Prayer Even Though it Cost Some their Lives! (v.18-19)**
 - (1) Peter's Life Was Saved—but Not the Soldiers — they Were Killed
 - (2) Prayer is so Powerful it Affects Life and Death!
 - (3) Not Long After this Prayer, Herod's Own Life was Taken by an Angel

2. HE HEARS THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE...

- a) Abraham wanted his servant to find a wife for his son Issac...
 - But not just any wife—a godly wife from the people of God
- b) The Servant was sent back to the land Abraham's family was from and he knew he had a monumental task! This was not the time to make a bad mistake!
- c) So He Prayed to God and ask for special direction...
- d) The Answer Arrived Before he had finished his prayer! (**Genesis 24:12-15**)

C. GOD KNOWS OUR QUESTIONS AND DOUBTS...

HE KNOWS OUR TEARS AND HEARS OUR PRAYERS!

1. Even When We Don't Know What We Should Pray For! (Romans 8:26–28)

- a) In a Beautiful and Mysterious Way...
- b) God's Holy Spirit Searches Our Spirit and Makes Intercession through the Spirit
- c) And God Works All Things for Good to those who Love Him!

2. Even at His Most Desperate Times David Cry Out to the Lord that No One Cared for His Soul—but He Knew God Cared (Psalm 142)

3. ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION SAYS:

- a) 'No One Cares' — GOD says I Care (1 Peter 5:7)
- b) 'I'm Worthless' — GOD says Your Precious (Isa 43:1, 4 ESV)
- c) 'I'm Hopeless'—GOD says You Have Living Hope (1 Pet 1:3)
- d) 'I'm Alone' — GOD says You Are Never Alone (Mt 28:20)
- e) 'I'm Afraid' — GOD says Fear Not (Isaiah 41:10 NKJ)
- f) 'I've Failed'—GOD says Your Repentance gives Joy in Heaven (Lk 15:7)
- g) 'I Could LOOSE EVERYTHING....' God says: Seek first His kingdom and His Righteousness & Everything you need will be provided!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. **GOD IS FAITHFUL...**
- 2. **He Remembers our suffering, our tears and our prayers...**
- 3. **He Will Not Forget His Promises or His People**
- 4. **But He Has Forgotten Our Sins, and Remembers them no more!**
- 5. **Because of the Blood of Christ—**