



CENTRAL SHELBY CHURCH OF CHRIST

working and worshipping together to serve the Lord



*"Jesus answered and said to her,
'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst
again, but whoever drinks of the water that I
shall give him will become in him a fountain of
water springing up into everlasting life.'" (John 4:13,14)*

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember what happened on September 11, 2001? You say, "What American adult could forget?" Well said -- But *how often* do you think of the terrible events of that day? In the past year, how many times have the images of that morning penetrated your thoughts? The planes... the fireballs... the burning towers... The Pentagon... the hole in the ground in Pennsylvania -- Do you think of these often? Almost five years have passed, and apparently the time elapsed has dulled in many the memory of that day and its impact. Many have been lulled to sleep by the comparative serenity on our shores these past 4200 days, having forgotten how bad things were on that day as well as the danger that still daily exists. Some seem to think there is no enemy out there. Well, excuse me, but how could we forget?!

I'm not trying to make a political statement here -- rather, a point with a spiritual application; for such reminds me of the short memories of the Israelites shortly after their flight from Egyptian bondage. God had delivered them with a "strong hand" through a series of plagues against their captors, and was bringing them to the promised land of Canaan. Yet just over a year after they left the atrocities of captivity, they were fondly thinking about the times back in Egypt. "Who will give us meat to eat?" they demanded. "We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic" (Numbers 11:4,5). What was happening here? Surely they had not forgotten the abuse, violence, and murder in Egypt? But they had!

Just so, there are children of God today who apparently have forgotten the terrible state of sin from whence they came. Their eyes are not open to the temptations that lie in wait. Perhaps the years have lulled them to sleep... they have forgotten the bondage they were in, that they were "slaves of uncleanness" (Romans 6:19). Dear Christian, is this you? The apostle Paul once told a group of saints, "Therefore *remember* that you, once Gentiles in the flesh... -- that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:11,12). They were not to forget the hopeless state they had come out of, and neither should we, for such is a sure sign of being spiritually "shortsighted, even to blindness" (2 Peter 1:9).

We need to remember the past, and stir ourselves to recognize the danger that still lurks (1 Corinthians 10:12). Satan is just around the corner. He really is. Let us not forget. Let us be vigilant.

Do you remember?

--Mike Noble