

## "The Remedy For Pride"

⇒ **Text:** Isa. 14: 12-15

⇒ **Intro:**

- o Pride is a terrible sin.
- o It is the sin that caused Satan to fall from his position as anointed cherub in the throne room of God in the third heaven.
  - In fact the devil is referred to in Job 41:34 as "**a king over all the children of pride**"
- o Pride has for its companions-
  - Shame
  - Contention
  - Destruction
- o Pride is one of the seven things listed in Proverbs Chapter 6 that God hates!
- o The sad thing about pride it is an equal opportunity sin.
  - No one is immune from it.

- o Unfortunately, many a Christian is guilty of the "I" disease.
- o There are few things more destructive to the effectiveness of Christians than pride.
  - It causes one to become self-centered.
  - It demands that this inflated estimate of self be fed constantly.
  - Furthermore, the larger self becomes, the less important others are.
  - It causes a total reversal of what God designed us to be.
  - We turn from dependence on God to trusting in our own abilities.
  - The glory that is rightly God's is turned toward self, which inevitably causes a breach in fellowship with Him.
  - Other people become instruments to serve self, rather than souls to be served, and the total concept of ministry becomes ~~warped~~ *distorted*.

- The result is a life that has lost its usefulness to God and man.

- A sad picture indeed.

o <sup>Today</sup> ~~This morning~~ what I hope to do is through the Word of God provide you with the remedy or antidote to pride.

- I believe if we are honest with God and ourselves every one of us is guilty of the sin of pride at one time or another.

o Look out when most of your conversation is about yourself as evidenced by the use of the personal pronoun "I".

- If that is the case then you have come down with a good case of Pride!

⇒ The remedy or antidote to the sin of pride is I believe is a "**Good Memory**".

o I believe a good verse to be memorized and placed in the heart of every Christian for the Holy Spirit to be able to deploy when we are beset by temptation

to be proud is found in **1 Cor. 10:31**, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

- You see ~~that~~ <sup>cannot</sup> you ~~can~~ be proud and bring glory to God at the same time.

o I want us to look at three aspects of a "**Good Memory**".

o As Christians we need to:

- **Remember Our Past**
- **Remember Our Position**
- **Remember Our Purpose**

⇒ I. **Remember Our Past**

o **Ephesians 2:2-3, 11-12**, calls upon us to remember our past.

o The Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthians believers of their past and which is also true about many believers today.

- **See 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.**

- o When you are tempted to become proud, it is beneficial to stop and remember where you were when Christ found you.
  - You were without –
    - Christ
    - Promise
    - Hope
    - God
  - Here is a bleak picture of the dark pit of misery you occupied apart from Him.
  - When you see afresh the wretchedness you so keenly felt when you knelt to call upon Him for salvation.
    - You rediscover a sense of your unworthiness and His grace.
- o Who among us can be proud of what he or she was?
  - All redeemed people are in actuality, **“has been”—thank God!**

- o **Let us read the verses in Ephesians 2:2-3, 11-12** again.
  - And rejoice that we are not what we were – Amen.
- o As we meditate on these precious words, we are reminded of what it took to take us from the place we once were.
  - “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.” **Romans 5:6**
- o We should remember our past and exclaimed as David did in **Psalm 40:2**, “He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.”
  - ⇒ **As Christians we need to:**
  - ⇒ **II. Remember Our Position or Standing**
    - o We possess **“eternal life”**
    - o We are **“accepted in the beloved”** – Eph. 1:6
    - o We are seated **“in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”** – Eph. 2:6

- o We are **“sons of God”** *John 1:12*
- o We are **“heirs of God”** – Romans 8:17
- o We are **“new creatures in Christ”** – 2 Cor. 5:17
- o We are **“ambassadors for Christ”** – 2 Cor. 5:20
- o We are **“partakers of the divine nature,”** – 2 Pe. 1:4
- o Each time we partake of the Lord’s Supper we need to remember our position.
  - **See I Cor. 11:24-25** ←
- o At the Lord’s Supper we are shown seated with <sup>OUT</sup>~~out~~ Saviour at the table of fellowship and communion.
  - Remembrance of His shed blood and broken body is emphasized.
  - He magnifies where we are and what it took to get us there.
- o The purchase price required to secure our place at His side is far beyond human comprehension.

- The suffering and the death of the God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was **“wounded for our transgressions”** (Isa. 53:5)
- This is another reminder of how low humanity has fallen.
- There can be no more humbling revelation than this.
- o The Word of God tells us that in exchange for our filthy rags of unrighteous that we have received God’s robe of righteousness.
  - This was made possible because, **“...he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”** 2 Cor. 5:21
- o As Christians we need to remember our reception through faith in Christ, gives us our standing and assures our eternal state.
  - This being true, what do we have to boast about?

- Only Christ!!! – Amen.

⇒ **As Christians we need to:**

⇒ **III. Remember Our Purpose**

- o We need to remember why our Lord has left us in this world.
- o The Apostle Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:12, “Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in **remembrance** of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.”
- o Our purpose as Christians is –
  - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” – **Mt. 5:16**
- o The Apostle Peter tells us in **2 Peter 1:3**, “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

- o To full fill God’s purpose for us He has given each of us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.
  - We often refer to these things as gifts.
  - However, we need to remember these gifts are ours by virtue of His divine power; we have nothing to boast about.
- o The Apostle Paul reprimanded and reminded the Corinthians of this fact.
  - Remember, the Corinthians were getting puffed up over the gifts of the Holy Spirit they possessed. *and*
  - Paul wrote to them <sup>^</sup>said, “...and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?” 1 Cor. 4:7
- o Paul viewed every ability as a gift from God, something that had been received from God to be used to the glory of God.

- He claimed to have nothing himself that was not received from the hand of a gracious Father.
- o If it was true of Paul, how markedly true is it of you and me.
- Why, then, do we get puffed up about ourselves?
- o Getting back to the verse in **2 Peter 1:3**, the Word of God tells us that we are called to **glory and virtue**.
- All true glory outside God Himself is reflected glory.
  - The Christian is to reflect the glory of God outwardly just as the moon reflects the sun.
  - Just as Moses face shined from the glory of God.
- o As we read earlier in **Matthew 5**, we are to be literally lights shining in a dark world.
- o In reinforcing our purpose of being shining lights the Apostle Paul spoke of the source of that light.

- “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” **2 Cor 4:6-7**
- **Treasure in earthen vessels** – He was referring to the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in the believer’s earthly body.
- o What a high and holy privilege we have as children of light by which men can see God.
- o Peter in 2 Peter 1:3 tells us **virtue** is ours **by the knowledge of Him (Christ)**.
- The building blocks of Christian growth, which bring us to the place of true spiritual living, are ours only as we learn them from Him.
- To become pharisaic-ally proud of how we live for God is to deny our Lord the credit due Him.

- Even our virtuous living is for the purpose of directing men to God.

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- o Christian if you want to keep from falling to pride then you must –
  - Remember your past
  - Remember your position
  - Remember your purpose