

April 23, 2017

“Crosswalk”

“Remembering the Cross”

“Don’t forget that you...used to be outsiders... But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.” Ephesians 2:11a, 13

A. Don’t forget to remember...

1. Don’t forget who you were when Christ called you.
“This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: ‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’—and I am the worst of them all.” 1 Timothy 1:15
2. Don’t forget that at one time you were without Christ.
“In those days you were living apart from Christ.” 1 Timothy 1:12a
3. Don’t forget that at one time you did not have a relationship with God or hope in your life.
“You lived in this world without God and without hope.” 1 Timothy 1:12c
4. Don’t forget you only had an earthly citizenship.
“You were excluded from citizenship...” 1 Timothy 1:12b

B. Paul never forgot...

1. Paul never forgot his past.
“For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I’m not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God’s church.” 1 Corinthians 15:9
2. Paul never forgot the privilege he was given in spite of his past.

“Though I am the least deserving of all God’s people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ.” Ephesians 3:8

3. Paul never forgot his former hatred for the church.
“You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it.” Galatians 1:13

4. But...God’s grace is greater!
“But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—” 1 Corinthians 15:10a

C. Remembering the cross can refocus you...

- “Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.” Ephesians 2:13b*
1. Remembering your past can make you thankful.
“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him,” 1 Timothy 1:12
 2. Remembering your past can make you humble.
“...even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 1:13-14
 3. Remembering your past can make you useful.
“But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.” 1 Timothy 1:16

4. Remembering your past can make you worshipful.
“All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.” 1 Timothy 1:17

D. But now...

1. But now...because of His great love, He loves you just as you are.
“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8
2. But now...because of His mercy, He gave you life.
“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much,” Ephesians 2:4
3. But now...because of His grace, He saved you.
“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.” Ephesians 2:8
4. But now...because of His plan for you, He has good things for you to do!
“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10

“Remember that you were once slaves in the land of Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you!” Deuteronomy 15:15a