

FORGET THE PAST, LIVE FOR THE PRESENT

By Pastor Greg Hooker

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:10).

Occasionally you see, read, or experience something that simply ‘leaps’ out and grabs your attention. I had one of those experiences recently when a good friend of mine posted the following, ‘The next time Satan reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.’

If there is one thing that Satan excels at doing, it’s reminding the Christian of their past sins and failures. Often he will say things like: you were a drunkard, a foul-mouthed and down-right mean person. He might add that you were a blasphemer, hater of God and a liar. Moreover, Satan may accuse you of committing the sins of adultery, idolatry, hatred, malice, thievery, lust, envy, strife, and a host of other sinful things.

For all you Christians out there, you know exactly what I’m talking about. In fact, another name given to Satan is; “The Accuser of the Brethren”! Don’t be fooled, my friend, the Accuser is very skilled and persistent at what he does! He is not slothful. He never gives up and will never leave God’s children alone until we enter the portals of Heaven.

Why does Satan place such importance on accusation? It’s very simple; if he can get you to dwell in the past, you will be no use for the present (or future). To be of value to God, you must live in the here and now, not in the dusty archives of the past. The past is just that – the past! Gone. Vanished. Water under the bridge. It’s certain you can’t board a time machine and go back and change anything.

For the Christian, the past may hold many of the sins listed above, but rest assured; they are completely forgiven! They are plunged under the blood of Christ upon the mercy seat in Heaven! Gone. Vanished.

Unlike the non-believer, the sins of the believer will never be brought against them in judgment – our sins were judged on the cross! Our sins are as far as the east is from the west – cast into the sea of forgetfulness by God Himself! God the Father sings, ‘What sins are you talking about? I don’t remember them anymore!’ Glory, glory, glory!

Forgive me for being personal here, but I can tell you from experience; if you spend your time tip toeing through the wilted tulips of yesteryears, you will wake up one day and find out a majority of your life was wasted with nothing to show for it! Wasted on ‘I wishes’, ‘if I could’s’, and ‘if only’s’ (not very good grammar, but you get the idea).

So the next time Satan accuses you concerning your past; simply remind him of his future! He shall be tormented day and night forever in the lake of fire and brimstone!

Dear Lord, thank you for the blood of Christ that covers the sins of all those who – by faith – accept Jesus as their Savior. Help us to *“forget those things which are behind”*, live in the present, and hope for the future.

In Jesus name, your son, Pastor Greg.