

## OUR GOD REMEMBERS US

Got a text the other day from a number that I didn't recognize. Oddly enough, it was assigned to a name in my contact list that didn't ring a bell either.



What bothered me most about it was that it was a birth announcement. Obviously, the sender "*knew me*" well enough to want to share the good news with me. Sleuthing on Facebook, I found a corresponding person who looked vaguely familiar – but for the life of me, I couldn't recall how or where we'd met.

Nina suggested it might be someone I'd briefly encountered in conjunction with a wedding or funeral or perhaps somebody who had attended the church a few times. It wasn't till the next evening that it dawned on me - kind of out of the blue - that I'd counseled this young man and his wife a few years ago.

Anyway, I felt horribly for not recalling him right away. Even though it was only a temporary lapse of memory, it truly troubled me. I texted back not only my congratulations, but also my apology for not responding immediately.

When I shared this with a friend they said, "*Don't be so hard on yourself. As many people as you meet, you can't possibly remember them all.*" I suppose there's truth to that, but it still causes me concern. I never want to forget anyone – especially not one with whom I've made such a connection.

This got me to thinking of how grateful I am that my Lord has not forgotten me – nor any of His other children. Consider the following passages:

**"Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close."** (Psalm 27:10)

(Isaiah 44:21) **"I, the Lord, made you, and I will not forget you."**

Though I confess that the Lord has not always been on the forefront of my mind, it seems that I have always been on His. That's "*mind boggling*" when you consider the trillions upon trillions of people who have ever lived. I am the work of His hands and He'll always remember me.

It's also comforting to know that this is not just some vague recollection of my existence or of a brief encounter. It's an intimate awareness of who I am and a deep affection for me. As the Lord Himself says in **Isaiah 49:15-16**:

**"Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the babe from her womb? Even though she may forget, yet I will not forget you. I have engraved you on the palms of my hands."**

As certain as I am that I don't need a tattoo to recall my kids, God doesn't need an inscription on His palms to keep from forgetting His children. That's not the idea. Yet, the image is of one who holds us so close that He cannot possibly forget us.

So, it's not God who needs a reminder of His children, but His children who need reminders of Him. That's why our Lord instituted so many memorials\* – including of course, the Lord's Supper. He knows we need our memories stirred.

Still, let us never think that He is as forgetful as we often are. He has not forgotten us – and He never will. Such an assurance does more than warm my heart. It melts it.

I pray that, in some small way, this article will help you to never forget that fact.

\* *Exodus 12:11-14; Deuteronomy 5:15; Joshua 4:4-7; Luke 22:19-20; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:23-26*