

Dreams and Memories

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Psalm 145:7 They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.

- I. The young live on dreams – the old live on memories.
 - A. Both are God-given abilities exclusive to we who are made in the image of God.
 1. To live by faith in God requires the ability to look into the future with hopeful expectation.
 2. True faith is not based on imagination, but on reality and truth.
 - B. Dreams and memories are both powerful tools for guiding our heart and the pathway of our life.
 1. In fact, they are what life is made up of.
 - C. But the introduction of sin has turned them both into powerful tools for our ruin.
 - D. Therefore, when we step back and observe the course of humanity, especially through our own heart and life, we can see the value and the danger of dreams and memories.
- II. Young people need to understand clearly that dreams are not reality.
 - A. A dream has no substance; and is made up purely of desire and imagination.
 1. Memories are made of real stuff.
 - B. A dream is an illusion – a forced or deceived belief in something that does not exist.
 - C. Our youthful dreams usually lead us to disappointment, discouragement, and despair in their pursuit.
 - D. A goal and a dream are two different things.
 1. To have a goal is to have a destination, and a destination is a place that exists.
 - E. Young people dream of having a perfect marriage, being successful in their career, or whatever, but they do not have that as a goal.
 1. It is something they simply hope for and expect to materialize out of nowhere someday.
 2. It is not something that they set out to gain by traveling the road that leads them there.
 - F. Youth does not regard time and lives as if time does not matter.
 1. Age and memory force us to reckon according to time.
- III. The old need to understand that life is about looking forward and not back.
 - A. We cannot live in the past, and others tire of hearing our same old stories over and over. (especially the young, because they are looking forward and dreaming)
 - B. The old spend a great deal of their time and thoughts going through their memories and trying to analyze and rearrange it all so as to make it all fit together and make sense.
 1. This is not a bad thing, but in the process they need to guard against allowing their present to be lost in the past.
 - C. Any quality of life ends when we stop looking forward.
 - D. The memory of the old should be a minister looking forward to themselves and to those who are younger.
- IV. Until you acquire some memories to live on you will continue to live on dreams.

- A. In a world that is so out of order lives are wrecked and ruined and the memories that many people have are of nothing but misery and grief.
 - 1. When homes are broken up and the most intimate loves of our life are scattered to others their memory becomes bitter.
 - 2. When memory becomes a tormentor instead of a minister they have nothing to sustain their heart and so they continue to pursue after dreams.
 - 3. This is a large part of the reason so many older people are trying to appear and live like they are still young.
 - 4. It is also why many people live in some kind of nostalgic, make-believe world where they are trying to recreate the atmosphere and feelings of days long gone. (high school, teenage years, etc.)
 - 5. None of these things work any good in a soul, but only magnify that miserable, lonely feeling of loss.
- B. Those who truly live for God and allow Him to order their lives acquire quality memories as they go along that are invaluable to them and others later.

Prov. 10:7 The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

- C. The memory of the just – his own memory is a minister that blesses and helps him and others.

Genesis 42:9 And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.

- D. Words cannot express what memory can do for your soul when it becomes your minister.
 - 1. It can comfort beyond what your emotions can handle.
 - a) For example: godly people who were a special blessing who have gone on.
 - 2. It can instruct you in ways that no mere knowledge of facts could ever do.
 - 3. It can give you discernment in matters that you would otherwise be completely blind toward.
 - 4. Memory can give you understanding and wisdom – from simply watching life progress through its cycles and seeing the beginning and the end of things.

- V. The bad thing is that old people quit dreaming and young people do not remember.
 - A. Remember that both the ability to dream and to remember are by God’s design and are meant to make us more like God himself.
 - B. When the Spirit of God is poured out sin’s corruption of God’s design is corrected.

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

- C. Sin has turned dreams into stumbling blocks and memory into a tormentor.
- D. True salvation, which brings the Holy Spirit of God into our body and soul, gives us back the ability to dream properly when we are old.
- E. It also gives the young a discernment for the future that is based on fact and not on illusions.
- F. This is the way God intended things to work.
 - 1. The memories and experience of the old are a guiding light for the forward looking young.
 - 2. But the old are not looking back, but forward also.

1 Cor. 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.