

Remember

“How the faithful city has become a harlot! It was full of justice; Righteousness lodged in it, But now murderers. Your silver has become dross, Your wine mixed with water. Your princes [are] rebellious, And companions of thieves; Everyone loves bribes, And follows after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, Nor does the cause of the widow come before them. Therefore the Lord says, The LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, "Ah, I will rid Myself of My adversaries, And take vengeance on My enemies. I will turn My hand against you, And thoroughly purge away your dross, And take away all your alloy. I will restore your judges as at the first, And your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city." Zion shall be redeemed with justice, And her penitents with righteousness. The destruction of transgressors and of sinners [shall be] together, And those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed. For they shall be ashamed of the terebinth trees Which you have desired; And you shall be embarrassed because of the gardens Which you have chosen. For you shall be as a terebinth whose leaf fades, And as a garden that has no water. The strong shall be as tinder, And the work of it as a spark; Both will burn together, And no one shall quench [them].” (Isaiah 1:21-31 NKJV)

God takes up a lament against Judah now and promises to take vengeance upon her unfaithful. God remembers when His City and His people were full of justice, but that is only a memory now. Therefore, He will purge them.

It seems to me that remembering is a good thing. If we would remember who we are, we would be less likely to wander from home. Remember when you were first saved. My guess is there was a zeal and excitement that has long passed.

This is unfortunate because logic tells me that every day with the Lord may be just as exciting as those first days. Maybe it would not be in the sense of the extreme feeling of freedom first-found. However, God is unsearchable, and each day the believer may find new insights into His glorious person.

Therefore, remember the first days and seek the Lord as you did then. If you don't maintain that zeal, you risk slipping into lethargy, and trying to rest on your laurels. That is a recipe for disaster. It will only bring chastening to the believer and harsh judgment to the unbeliever. God will only endure your sin for so long.