

The Past: Turning Satan's Playground into a Battleground

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Workshop 1

Introduction:

- Our goals in counseling although manifold, are all interrelated:
- Counseling then is not a therapeutic exercise; it is an exercise in discipleship and sanctification.
- Our pasts obviously play a huge part in this process.

I. Memory plays such a huge part of Biblical faith

- A. God remembering His covenant
Exodus 2:24; 6:5

*Note how many times God is asked to remember: Ex 32:13

- B. God's people are continually exhorted to remember and not forget
Deut. 5:15 (15:15; 16:3; 16:12; 24:18; 24:22); 8:12; 9:7
2 Pet 1:12-13
Rev. 2:5; 3:3

- C. Monuments to help remember God's past acts of faithfulness instill a confidence for God's future faithfulness
Ex. 12:14 (13:9); Josh. 4:7
The Lord's Supper
Jim Andrews, *Polishing God's Monuments* (Sheperd Press, 2007)

"Remembrance is the chief work of a Christian."¹ Stephen Charnock

II. The Past is One of Satan's Effective Tool to Hamstring God's People

- A. Distorted memories
Num. 11:5
- B. Painful memories of personal hurts
Heb. 12:15
- C. Painful memories of personal failures
Bunyan, *Grace Abounding*, [23, 25]

¹ All Charnock quotes are taken from "A Discourse of Mercy Received" *The Works of Stephen Charnock, Volume V.*

III. Using Past Sins to Magnify God's Mercy in the Gospel

A. What about Jer. 31:34 (Heb. 8:12)?

B. What about Phil. 3:13?

C. 1 Tim. 1:12-17

D. 1 Pet. 1:17-21

Bunyan, *Grace Abounding*, [Preface, 11-13]

Luther, *Galatians* (1535), 36-37

“Remembrance of free mercies should not be attended with a forgetfulness of our own sinfulness.” Charnock

“Remember what misery preceded the mercy; as it made the mercy the sweeter, so it will make the remembrance of it more savory.” Charnock

*Bunyan, *The Jerusalem Sinner Saved* and *Grace Abounding*

IV. Using Past Sins to Motivate Mortification

A. Remembering our past sins should motivate us to hate them
Ezek. 16:60-62; 20:43; 36:31

“Remembrance is the chief work of a Christian; remembrance of sin to cause a self abhorrence.” Charnock

B. Remembering our past sins in light of grace should motivate us to greater obedience

“Great mercies should engage great obedience.” (Charnock)

Luke 7:47; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:9-10; 2 Cor. 5:14-15

Conclusion