

Sunday November 8th
Remembrance Sunday

MESSAGE

Did you know we are surrounded, by things that help us remember!

Calendars, Diaries, Phones, Alarm clocks, notice boards and maybe you can think of other things. Just have a look around you and think what things are there that help us remember.

Here at Park Road Baptist Church, we have many things to help us remember things like The Cross, we have a signed photo given by Astronaut Jim Irwin, The Barrass Hall has a memorial to Thomas Barrass, I'm sure there are other items and things that help us remember. At the front of our Church building there is inscribed the Year 1653 a reminder of when the Baptist movement began in Peterborough. Today is Remembrance Sunday and there is a memorial to all the Church friends and members that were killed during the Great War. We remember their names even though most of us know nothing about them. These were young men that left to serve their country and never came back. They never got to see their families again. Those with children never got to see them grow up and share those wonderful moments in life that Parent / Children have. They made the ultimate sacrifice giving up their lives so we could have a future. Jesus says in John 15:13 that the greatest love a person can show or express is to lay their lives down for their friends and Jesus goes on to tell his followers that they were his friends. Jesus knew that he was going to die on the cross for us and so showing the world the greatest love that God could show.

What I would like to talk about today is remembering and I believe that this is what God wants us to focus on today. Sue our Administrator received a book this week from somebody, this book was produced in 1953 – 300 year celebratory, booklet which was reminding people about what this Church had gone through and what various people did. It really is a great book if you like history and like looking back.

God likes us to remember things too! In Deuteronomy 6 God tells his people to Love him with all their hearts, soul and strength. His commands are to be upon their hearts. So to remember these commands, the adults were meant to

impress them on their children. They were to talk about them at home or when they were walking along the road. When they went to bed and when they got up. Even tying on symbols on their hands and foreheads, plus writing them on doorframes and gates.

Dt 6:12 **'BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DO NOT FORGET THE LORD'**. This was the words God gave to his people through Moses.

Moses dies and then Joshua takes over and when he dies Israel forgets to pass on the memories, the testimony of what God did for his people.

Judges 2:10 After that **whole** generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another **generation** grew up who **knew** neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.

How could this happen? One generation saw the red sea part, miracles, God's presence on the mountain things you just could not forget and yet a generation follows that knew nothing ! Before we blame the young generation in this passage maybe we need to ask why the older generation didn't follow God's instruction from Dt 6.

Have we forgotten some of the things that God has done? Have we kept God to ourselves and not passed on our stories? Have we forgotten to remember? I must confess that sometimes I've forgotten miracles and works that God has done in my life and it's only when something reminds me that I'm taken back to a particular time and I remember. We need to remember and praise God for his works and his faithfulness.

Remembrance Day is here and as I've mentioned we only have names inscribed on this list. Most of us probably know very little else about these names, but what we do know is the effect of their actions. We are free! Living in a democracy. Likewise when we read the Bible we read a list of names of people from thousands of years ago most of whom we know very little about but they had faith! We can read about them and see the effects of their actions today. You can read about these people in Hebrews 11.

Park Road Baptist Church exists because of what God did on the cross 2000 years ago. Sending his only Son Jesus because of his love for the world. Let us not forget, and let us have faith in God, and what he wants to do in our lives. Maybe future generations will look back at us today and remember the stories of God working through us.

As for us, let us remember to remember!