**What kind of memories do you want to make? (12-8-2019, Oak Ridge, TN)**

A little while back, Beth and I were watching a special on the national parks. At one point Beth looked up to me in tears and thanked me for taking her and our kids to so many national parks and special places. Those are good memories. On the flip side I sometimes have flash backs to times I didn't handle situations in the best way. Those are bad memories I wish I could go back and change. Let’s examine some different types of memories from God’s Word.

Memories to learn from (**Hebrews 5:12-14, 1 Peter 2:1-2, Matthew 11:29, 2 Timothy 2:1-2, Titus 2:1-7**):

Mistakes you learned from, lessons taught by older and wiser, lessons taught by younger and wiser to mature and grow from (*example: bring two open ended wrenches and show how they interlock to make a fulcrum*).

Memories to forget (**1 Timothy 1:15, Philippians 3:12-16**): Paul forgetting those things behind and looking forward, sins that have been repented of and forgiven. Sometimes we have a hard time forgetting things God has forgiven us of. Paul looked forward.

Memories to regret (**Matthew 6:9-15, 1 Timothy 1:12-15, Acts 2:36-38**) [imagine if they did not repent?]: things we have done that we know we should not have done. Sins we have not repented of. Or maybe sins we have not forgiven others of.

Do I want to be remembered as:

* **One who asks for forgiveness when I goof up or do I blame my mistakes on others?**
* When one comes to me asking for forgiveness, do I forgive and forget or do I hold a grudge?
* **One who when I obviously make a mistake or obviously sin, do I immediately blame it on others; or with humility do I accept full responsibility? [*Example of the Carolina wren stuck in the garage overnight that actually was part of the inspiration for this lesson*].**

Memories to cherish (**Luke 2:51, 2 Timothy 1:3-5, 3:14-17, 1 John 1:1-4**): Mary treasured memories in her heart ofg Jesus growing up. Beth and I talk about memories of our kids, our family (family reunions, weddings, special times in special places, etc.), and the fellowship and friendship we have with our family in Jesus. Paul reminded Timothy about his mother and grandmother teaching him the scriptures. The Apostle John could think of his wonderful and fond memories of walking, talking, and touching Jesus Christ, the Son of God! And what about the precious memory of when we are baptized and arise a new creature in Jesus (**Acts 8:39**)?

**How about you?** What kind of memories are you making; Memories to be cherished or memories to regret? For us Christians, maybe it is time to repent of something? Repentance is always a good memory!

**Or if not a Christian, today you need to decide to be born again.** Repenting and being baptized is a cherished memory you will never forget! The day you start your journey to heaven (**1 Peter 1:22-23**)!