

## The QBC Daily Nugget March 8, 2010

“The Rules of the Lord are true and righteous. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold” (Psalm 19:9b-10a)

**PSALM 25:6-7** – Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT: TELLING GOD WHAT TO REMEMBER.** I either hear or share reminders around our house. Things like, “Don’t forget to take out the recycling” or “Hey, remember Jake needs a walk.” All of our homes have “reminders” we share in order to get things done. We need them. David had some reminders he needed shared too! They were reminders he offered to his God in prayer. As one reads the Psalms, pay attention to just how close David was with God. Most of the Psalms are prayers. They are heart-wrenching, worshipful, depressing, exhilarating, and above all, reveal an intimacy with God. In today’s reference, David “tells” God, actually, petitions God, toward three areas he wants Him to exercise His remembrance. But before we go into those, we need to exercise our own mind in remembering this . . . God doesn’t forget anything. David isn’t questioning God in His ability to remember. He is petitioning God to deal with Him out of who He is. The petitions for God to remember are for David’s benefits. He needs to remember how God deals with him and he prays accordingly.

First, David pleads for God to remember (or treat him) out of mercy and steadfast love. When the sun is shining in our souls and the battle against sin and the devil seems to be not as intense, we are quick to praise God and remember His mercy and steadfast love. However, when darkness comes and the Lord chastens us to develop holiness in us (**HEBREWS 12:3-11**), we might be a little “forgetful” when it comes to His mercy and steadfast love. We might see Him in a harsh way. Samuel Rutherford wrote, “Let not the Lord’s dealings seem harsh, rough, or unfatherly, because it is unpleasant. When the Lord’s blessed will bloweth cross your desires, it is best in humility to strike sail to Him and to be willing to be laid any way our Lord pleaseth. Learn to believe Christ better than His strokes; Himself and His promises better than His glooms for we know all things work together for good to them that love God.”

The second direction David prays is for God to “not remember the sins of his youth or my transgressions”. Charles Spurgeon is worthy to quote on this petition of David, “The bones of our youthful feasting at Satan’s table will stick painfully in our throats when we are old men. He who presumes upon his youth is poisoning his old age. How large a tear may wet this page as some of us reflect upon the past! Sincere penitents cannot get through their confessions at a gallop; they are constrained to use many bemoanings, for their swarming sins smite them with so innumerable griefs. A painful sense of any one sin provokes the believer to repentance for the whole mass of his iniquities. Nothing but the fullest and clearest pardon will satisfy a thoroughly awakened conscience. David would have his sins not only forgiven, but forgotten.” This is a good petition for the sensitive soul who looks at the follies of the past and is humbled at both his or her actions and the gracious steadfast love and mercy of the God who forgives.

Finally, David returns to the anchor of his soul in his third petition of remembrance to his God – “according to your steadfast love remember me”. Aren’t those great bookends in which to put our youthful sins between? The steadfast love of God “squashes” the sins of youth. David’s transparency with God was because he knew His God. He could boldly, not presumingly, petition Him to treat him with steadfast love, mercy, a “forgetfulness of past sins” and for the sake of God’s goodness. It is a good goal for us, to be able to get to the point of “telling” God what to remember!

**PRAYER:** “Lord, allow me to develop a prayer life with the closeness and freedom David enjoyed.”

**QUOTE:** “Our intimacy in prayer will be measured by our interest in prayer.”