

Twelve Challenges Churches Face

A study guide for the book by Mark Dever

Chapter 1 - Forgetfulness

BEFORE READING

Answer:

- List the four greatest blessings in your life:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

- Who has blessed you more than anyone else in your life?

- How (through what means) has God most blessed you?

- What do you tend to think of first, when you think of your church?

- In what ways are you presently, intentionally helping other believers in your local church to remember God's blessings each week?

Read:

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 three times.

DURING READING

Remember Your Blessings – pages 13-18

- What is the first thing that Paul focused on in his letter?

- Is that where you begin when you think about your local church?

- In verse 2, Paul lists Four Evidences of God's Work. List them. Then, explain where you see them in your local church.

1. Evidence 1 - _____

This applies to my local church in this way: _____

2. Evidence 2 - _____

This applies to my local church in this way: _____

3. Evidence 3 - _____

This applies to my local church in this way: _____

4. Evidence 4 - _____

This applies to my local church in this way: _____

In verse 3, what does Paul do for the Corinthians?

Do you do the same for your local church?

In verse 4, for what does Paul thank God?

How does this apply to your local church? Do you share Paul's attitude?

In verse 5, Paul lists another evidence of God's work in them. What is it?

How does this apply to your local church?

In verse 6, Paul lists another evidence of God's work in them. What is it?

How does this apply to your local church?

In verse 7, Paul lists two evidences of God's work in them. Explain them.

1. Evidence 1 - _____

This applies to my local church in this way: _____

2. Evidence 2 - _____

This applies to my local church in this way: _____

In verse 8, Paul reminds them of two truths. Explain them.

1. Truth 1 – Believers will be _____.

This applies to my local church in this way: _____

2. Truth 2 – They would be _____.

This applies to my local church in this way: _____

In verse 9, Paul lists a final, summary blessing. What is it?

How does this apply to your local church?

Who Has Blessed You? – Pages 18-20

- Who is the one who blesses the church?
 - How did this truth effect Paul's prayers?
- How does God use people in blessing the church?
 - Give some examples.

How Has God Blessed You? – Pages 20-22

- Through whom specifically are believers supremely blessed by God?
- In verses 2-9, the author shows how Jesus Christ is related to God's blessings. List out and meditate on these connections.

Jesus Christ is...

- ...called _____ (2-3; 7-9).
 - ..._____ to (2).
 - ...the means of _____ (4).
 - ...the one in and through whom Christians are _____ in every way (5).
 - ...the one whose _____ is eagerly awaited (7).
 - ...the one who would keep the Corinthians _____ (8).
 - ...the one into whose _____ we have been called (9).
 - ...God's _____ (9).
- How is all this a blessing and comfort to believers?

Have Others Forgotten Their Blessings? – Pages 22-24

- What does the author say was Paul's primary purpose in writing to these believers?
 - What might this say about the role that believers ought to play in each other's lives?
- Paul views himself as what kind of convert? Explain.
 - Are you a convert to Jesus Christ?
- What was the first thing that Paul did for these confused Christians (verse 4)?
 - How does Paul view their sin?
 - Where does Paul begin with these Christians in need of correction?
 - Why is this wise?
 - If you cannot see evidence of grace in one who needs correction, what might be true of you?

AFTER READING

Answer:

- Have you forgotten your blessings?**
 - How does your list of blessings (on page one) differ from that of Paul's in 1 Corinthians?
 - How do you need to change your thinking about what it means to be blessed?
- Have you forgotten who has blessed you?**
 - Does your answer to the question of *who* has blessed you (on page one) differ from Paul's answer, outlined in this chapter?
 - How do you need to change your thinking about who has blessed you?
- Have you forgotten how God has blessed you?**
 - Does your answer to the question of *how* God has blessed you (on page one) differ from Paul's teaching on how God blesses us?
 - How do you need to change your thinking about how God has blessed you?
- Have Christians around you forgotten their blessings?**
 - In what concrete and practical ways can you begin to help other Christians in your local church remember how God has blessed them in Jesus Christ?
 - With whom in your local church should you form a relationship, aimed at helping them remember and apply God's blessings in Christ?

Apply:

- What specific applications will you make from this chapter?

Pray:

- Write out a prayer in response to what you've learned.