

FAILING MEMORY

Rob Robinson

"I can't remember how I got to church and I don't know how I am going to get home tonight." As we began Wednesday evening class and I asked for prayer requests, that's what Chester Dawson said. He did not seem to be upset, but he was puzzled about it. Most people in the class were aware of his memory problems and took his concern seriously, though we reassured him that he would get home after class, and he took comfort in that.

We have been studying the various avenues, or disciplines, of spiritual growth in the class. Several of the things we can and must do to enhance our spiritual growth concern interacting with sacred scripture. That night, I asked if someone would find and read 2 Timothy 2:15. Before anyone had a chance to do it, Mr. Chester stood and recited the verse (KJV) from memory: "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" It was amazing, especially considering the lapse of memory we had just witnessed. I asked him if he could remember some other passages, and he recited more for us. I commented to the class what a consolation it would be that, if your memory started to fail you, the last thing to go would be your memory of Scripture.

One lady remarked that if her memory of Scripture were the last to go that she would have little left since she never memorized much of it. Another told about how she once memorized the entire book of Philippians, and it helped her immensely to survive a very dark chapter of her life. When I was a boy, I remember being encouraged to get a good education or learn a trade because you would have something no one could take from you. That holds true of Bible passages we memorize. It will be a treasure we will always have. Here's another verse from the KJV, one I memorized long ago: "*Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.*" (Ps. 119:11) You can hide God's word in your heart by memorizing it. It is a valuable treasure worth careful safekeeping. Hide it in your heart and it will always be there for you.