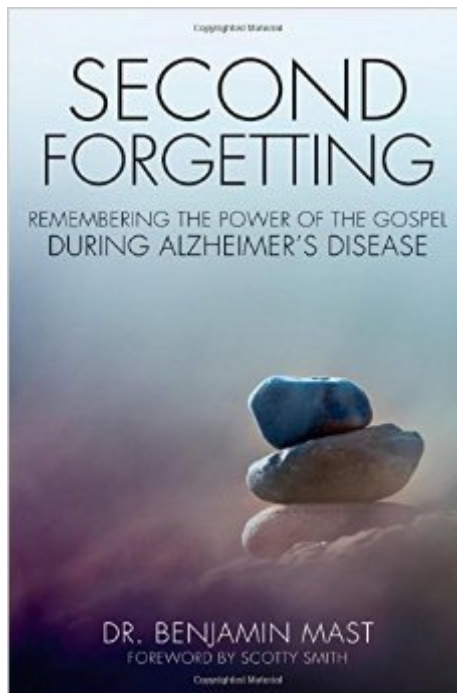


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# Second Forgetting: Remembering The Power Of The Gospel During Alzheimer's Disease



## Synopsis

Charles is 78 years old and there is much he cannot remember. He cannot remember the names of his children, why he lives in a nursing home, or even whether he ate breakfast today. His forgetting causes confusion, and in his fear and uncertainty he sometimes lashes out at those who try to care for him. But when someone reads a favorite Psalm he quickly joins in, reciting each cherished word. When he hears an old hymn of faith, his hand slowly raises and he breathes out each word quietly, his face reflecting a peace that passes all understanding. Alzheimer's disease has been described as the "redefining disease" of the baby boomer generation. Millions of Americans will spend much of their retirement years either caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or experiencing its effects on their lives firsthand. When a person is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, they face great uncertainty, knowing that they can expect to live their remaining years with increasing confusion and progressively greater reliance upon other people to care for them. As the disease advances it seems to overwhelm a person, narrowing their focus and leading them to forget critical truths about the Lord, their life with him, and his promises. Through the personal stories of those affected and the loved ones who care for them, Dr. Benjamin Mast highlights the power of the gospel for those suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Filled with helpful, up-to-date information, Dr. Mast answers common questions about the disease and its effect on personal identity and faith as he explores the biblical importance of remembering and God's commitment to not forget his people. In addition, he gives practical suggestions for how the church can come alongside families and those struggling, offering help and hope to victims of this debilitating disease. If you are a Christian who knows or loves someone with Alzheimer's disease, have recently been diagnosed with early Alzheimer's disease, or are a pastor or ministry leader seeking to better understand and minister to people with Alzheimer's disease this book will encourage you with the good news of God's faithfulness and the future hope he calls us to.

## Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Zondervan (September 23, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310513871

ISBN-13: 978-0310513872

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #127,052 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Alzheimer's Disease #76 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Mental Health > Dementia #406 in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Internal Medicine > Neurology

## Customer Reviews

Over the past two years I've been writing and thinking about dementia. This issue is one that is deeply close to my heart since my dad has frontal temporal dementia. As I've written on this topic, I've been looking at the Christian book market and wondering why more hasn't been written to address this topic. While there are some books out there on this topic, most of those books aren't for the average person. Knowing this is why Dr. Benjamin Mast wrote *Second Forgetting: Remembering The Power of the Gospel During Alzheimer's Disease*. Dr. Mast writes not only as professor and psychologist, but as an elder at Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Given that the issue of mental illness and dealing with a family member with a mental illness is hard what does the Bible have to say about these issues? Furthermore, "How do Christians care for those with mental illness?" As those who've wrestled in real life with these questions know the answers to these questions aren't easy. In fact there are only hard questions with very few answers on this issue. As I've found in helping my mom deal with issues related to my dad every situation and circumstance can be fraught with much difficulty and requires much wisdom from God with a view to care for the person who has dementia. Dr. Mast's book has eleven chapters. In each chapter he guides the reader with a view to help them understand the problem and the hope the gospel provides. The author defines the second forgetting as, "We are all imperfect and broken. We forget the Lord, even in the best of health" (18).

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