

“Things In The Past That We Need To Forget”

Or

“Things That Keeps Us From Going Forward.”

⇒ **Text:** Philippians 3:13-14

⇒ **Intro:**

- V. 13 – “...forgetting those things which are behind...”
 - The Apostle Paul is instructing us that there some thing is our past that we need to forget.
 - He expresses this by saying “things which are behind.”
 - In other words, thing that have already happen, that are in past.
 - Things that you cannot change.
 - The reason Paul instructs us to forget those things that have happen in the past because they will hinder us from going forward.
 - V. 13 – “reaching forth unto those things which are before”
 - You can’t go in two directions at the same time.
 - You can’t go forward if you are constantly going backwards or living in the past.
 - Paul is passing along this lesson to us that he has learned by experience.
 - He says in v. 13, “...I count myself to have apprehended...”
 - Obviously, Paul in the past had tried living in the past and not forgetting those things that he should have.
 - I believe it hinder his work in the Lord until the Lord showed him differently.
 - So Paul is telling us “learn from my experiences”.
 - The reason Paul tells us “forgetting those things which are behind” is because it hinder us reaching our goal.
 - The goal being in v. 14, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”
 - Serving the Lord according to His will.
 - Fighting the good fight of faith.
 - Finishing the course.
 - Keeping the faith.
 - You see that you can’t do that unless you forget those things that have happen in the past.
 - Unless you look forward and not backward.
 - You need to be “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith”.
 - I can here some of you quoting Hebrews 12:2.
 - You need not only be able to quote it but do it!!!
 - This morning I want us to look at some “Things In The Past That We Need To Forget.” Or “Things That Keeps Us From Going Forward.”

⇒ **I. PAST SINS**

- The devil will tell you that God can't use you because of some past sin in your life.
 - You need to remind the devil what the Word of God says **1 Jn. 1:7** – “...**the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**”
 - Notice what the Apostle Paul said about himself in **1 Tim. 1:12-15**.
 - Despite his past sins God mightily used him after his conversion.
 - How about the woman at the well in John 4 that Jesus dealt with.
 - She had been married five times and the current man she was living in sin with was not her husband.
 - Despite her past and current sins upon her conversion the Lord used her to bring many to him.
 - **See John 4:29-30.**
 - So, don't allow the devil to bang you over the head about your past sins.
 - Remember, the Lord can and will use you for his honor and glory despite your past.
 - Even after being saved the Christian will sin.
 - The devil will use that against you.
 - He tell you that you have lost your testimony and you all washed up for the Lord.
 - Again, use the sword on him, the word of God.
 - Remind him of God's promise in **1 John 1:9**.
 - Your situation will probably change because of your sin.
 - Remember, there are always consequences to sin.
 - For example, even though David was a man after God's own heart, his life was never the same because of his sins of adultery and murder.
 - However, God can still use you for his honor and glory after getting right with him.
 - Remember, God is the God of second chances.
 - I.e. – Jonah.
- ⇒ **We need to forget Past Sins**
- ⇒ **We need to forget**
- ⇒ **II. PAST SUCCESSES**
- Some Christians are living in the past and resting on past successes.
 - These folks like to talk about their past successes and accomplishments in the ministry.
 - This kind of person likes to have the pre-eminence, because they are always talking about what they accomplished in the ministry.

- Some times this individual will develop the attitude that they know and you don't.
- They are basically living on the memories of the past.
 - This type of person can be a stumbling block to a ministry.
 - Especially, when a ministry is trying to go forward, this individual will keep trying to pull it back into the past.
- These folks are reluctant to hear and support new ideas.
 - You see change makes them feel like they no longer have control or in charge.
- Sad, to say some folks don't even want to see a church grow and take on new members because they want things to remain the same.
- You see that you need to forget the past successes, deal with the present and look forward to the future.
 - Proverbs 29:18, reminds us **“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”**

⇒ **We need to forget Past Successes**

⇒ **We need to forget**

⇒ **III. PAST SORROWS**

- Christians can get caught up and overwhelmed by past sorrows.
 - The lost of a spouse.
 - The lost of a child.
 - The lost of a parent.
 - The lost of a sibling.
 - The lost of a friend.
- A Christian can allow grief to overcome them and end up in deep depression.
 - Don't get me wrong.
 - I believe that it is all right and appropriate for a Christian to grieve over the lost of a love one.
 - In fact, if you don't grieve properly then you can end up doing yourself some emotional damage.
 - Grieving is a natural process human beings are to go through.
- But if not put in the proper prospective it can keep a Christian from going forward in his service for the Lord.
 - We are told in Genesis 23:2, that Abraham mourn and wept over the lost of his wife Sarah.
 - After he gave his wife a proper burial, then in the next Chapter 24, Abraham sends out his servant to find a bride for his son Isaac.
 - Abraham did allow his sorrow for his wife to overwhelm him.
 - He goes back to the business of life and serving the Lord.

⇒ **We need to forget Past Sorrows**

⇒ **We need to forget**

⇒ **IV. PAST SLIGHTS**

- A Christian has to be careful not to allow past slights from keeping him going forward.
 - Keep him from serving the Lord.
 - A root of bitterness has destroyed more Christian friendships and churches than anything else.
 - The word of God tells us about bitterness.
 - **See Eph. 4:31-32 – “put away”**
 - **See Heb. 12:15 – “defiles”**
 - Notice how the Apostle Paul dealt with past slights.
 - **See 2 Tim. 4:16-17**
 - Paul was deserted by friends – **“all men forsook me;”**
 - He did not allow a root of bitterness spring up and defile him.
 - He did not allow past slights to keep him from going forward.
 - Serving the Lord.
 - Finishing his course.
 - Notice what Paul prayed there in v. 16, **“I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.”**
 - Our reaction would be “I hope that they get what they deserve!”
 - You, see Paul didn’t allow past slights to take his eyes off the Lord.
 - Keep him from going forward.
 - You see Paul had his eyes on the **“...prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”**
- ⇒ **We need to forget Past Sights**
- ⇒ **We need to forget**
- ⇒ **V. PAST SHEPHERDS**
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