

“What Happens When We Live In The Past”

➤ **Text:** Philippians 3:13-14

➤ **Intro:**

- As human beings we are creatures of habits.
- For the most part we do not like change and often try to resist it.
 - It seems the older a person gets the more resistant to change they are.
- Not all change is beneficial but some change is necessary in some situations.
 - Resistance to necessary change can often stunt the essential growth in individuals, families, businesses, and yes even churches.
- Sad, to say there are many independent Baptist Churches who aptly could be called “Living In The Past Baptist Church.”
 - Unfortunately, I believe that even our church, Evangelical Baptist Church could be go by that name.
- You see “Living In The Past Baptist Church” is a church who has been do some things for many years.
 - And to deviate from these well-worn practices even when they no longer make sense is paramount to heresy.
- Let me clarify what I do not mean by change.
 - We should never change the Book, the Word of God, the King James Bible.
 - We should never change the Biblical means of Soul Winning.
 - We should never change the fundamental doctrines of the faith.
 - We should never change our stand on separation from the world.
 - We should never change how a person is saved by grace through faith in the blood atonement of Christ.
- When a new pastor comes into these church and recommends some necessary changes to be made for the benefit of the church and its members –
 - Some of the members are resistant and have the attitude that the Pastor’s judgment is faulty.
 - Or his decisions are based on inexperience.
 - They take the attitude, “After all I have all these years in the ministry and I know what is best.”
 - Instead of thanking God for the sacrifice that pastor is making, they murmur and complain to the other members of the church.
- What these church and individuals in these churches don’t realize is that living in the past and resisting beneficial change is ruining the purpose for the existence of that church.
 - Winning Lost Souls
 - Discipling those won to the Lord.
 - Preach and Teaching the whole counsel of God.
 - Supporting Missionaries
 - Training Up Preachers and Establishing other churches.
- We read in the ten commandments –
 - **See Exodus 20:3-5.**

- As Christians we need to be careful that we don't put anything in our hearts before God.
 - That we don't bow down and worship anyone or anything else besides the one true God.
- You see people who resist necessary change and who are member of "Living In The Past Baptist Church" having a tendency to make idols and worship such things as:
 - The actual church building because of its architecture.
 - The sound of the old pipe organ.
 - The memory and ministry of the establishing pastor.
 - The older members of the church who have been their since the beginning.
 - Some members don't want the church to grow because that would be change.
 - After all we are "Living In the Past Baptist Church"
- You see when I was Catholic boy I got into some of that.
 - But you know what I know the truth, Praise God and the truth has set me free!!!