

“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 perspective 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**

- One thing that has a devastating effect on a local church is when the shepherd or the pastor falls to sin.
  - i.e – First church in after saved the pastor fell to adultery.
  - The church eventually ended up closing its doors.
  - As a result, some in that congregation stopped going to church, stopped serving God.
  - Some folks worshipped that man and not the Lord that they felt it was okay for him to continue to be the pastor.
- A pastor is someone that you should be able to trust in and depend upon.
  - He should set the example for the rest of the church to follow.
- The Apostle Peter instructed pastors in 1 Peter 5:3, **“Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.”**
- The Apostle Paul told the church at Corinth, **“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”** – 1 Corinthians 11:1
  - The key here in this verse is follow the pastor as long as he is following Christ.
    - If he is following Christ, then he is also following the Word of God.
  - When you see the man of God deviating from the scriptures then stop following him because he is no longer following Christ.
  - No just the obvious sins like committing adultery or stealing church funds but the not so obvious.
    - Like using the perverted Bibles – NIV, NASB, Living Bible, etc.
    - I think this is obvious but some folks don’t – Allowing women to take the pulpit as a preacher and be addressed as reverend.
- Psalm 118:8, reminds us, **“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.”**

⇒ **We need to forget Past Shepherds**

⇒ **We need to forget**

⇒ **IV.PAST SHEEP**

- What I mean by past sheep is Christians who have broken fellowship with God because of sin in their life & won't get right.
  - It is a hard thing to do.
    - To have nothing to do with Christians that you once fellowshiped with.
  - However, if they won't get right with God, they are going to pull you down.
    - Keep you from serving God.
    - Keep you from going forward.
  - Especially, if they once attended the church you are in.
    - They are going plant negative seeds in your mind against the pastor.
    - Before you know it you will be start being negative toward the pastor and the ministry of the church.
    - You will end up leaving that church and have the chastening hand of the Lord come down on you.
- The scriptures tells us we are to separate from Christian who won't get right.
  - **See Romans 16:17-18**
  - **See Mt. 18:15-17**
  - **See 2 Thess. 3:6**
- ⇒ **So, we need to forget Past Sheep.**
- ⇒ **Conclusion:**
  - This morning we have looked at some "Things In The Past That We Need To Forget"
    - **We need to forget Past Sins**
    - **We need to forget Past Successes**
    - **We need to forget Past Sorrows**
    - **We need to forget Past Sights**
    - **We need to forget Past Shepherds**
    - **We need to forget Past Sheep**
  - My friend is there something that you need to forget, put in the past.
    - Is there something that keeping your from going forward.
      - Keep your from serving – reaching forth
      - Something that has taken your eye off the **"...prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."**
      - Whatever it is won't you come today to this old fashion altar, leave it, and put it behind.
  - **Plea for the unsaved.**