

Five Things To Forget

Phil 3:13-14

Introduction:

- A. The apostle Paul, in writing to the Philippian Christians, said, “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:13-14).
- B. He was referring to whatever he had done in the past that might be a hindrance to his obtaining the salvation he looked for.
- C. Too often, we are hindered by those things in our past that we just can’t seem to let go of. While we need to always remember that we will never deserve God’s mercy, we must leave those things that hinder our progress in the past.
- D. Today let’s look at five things we need to forget.

I. *Setbacks*

- A. We are too prone to brood over our losses - especially financial and material losses.
- B. But Jesus taught that the only loss which should truly concern us is the loss of the soul! - Matt 16:24-26
- C. Losing friends, health, job, property or position are bad but are also minor inconveniences compared to the excellence of gaining Christ. - Phil 3:8

II. *Slights*

- A. We must not dwell on past grievances or injuries. - Eph 4:26-27
- B. Harboring hatred or resentment poisons a person's whole perspective on life.
- C. There is not much room for anything else in a heart filled with bitterness. - Eph 4:31-32

III. *Successes*

- A. Many good men have been ruined by success.
- B. Saul of Gibeah was a noble man until he was anointed king of Israel and then his life turned to tragedy. - 1 Sam 13:6-14
- C. Let us remember that without the mercy of God we could do nothing, have nothing, be nothing! - Rom 12:3

IV. *Sorrows*

- A. We must not allow our sorrows to imprison us in the past. - Rom 8:18
- B. As one old preacher used to say, "We must look for life's pearls." - 2 Cor 1:3-7

V. *Sins*

- A. We must not allow our sins to defeat us. - Heb 12:1-2
- B. With God's help, we can put them behind us. - Phil 4:13
- C. Sin can be cleansed from our lives - Heb 9:14
- D. The blood of Christ is more powerful than sin! - 1 Jn 1:7

Conclusion:

- A. We all have things in our past that we would just as soon weren't there, but we need to leave them there. We may learn from the things of the past, but we can't change it.
- B. May God grant us both the wisdom to know what needs to be forgotten and the will to forget them.