

Philippians 3:12-14

## I. As for the past, forget it v13

1. 10 times he instructs his readers to remember
2. 3 times he informs them that he remembers...one of those times, in this letter (Phil 1:3)
3. *The remembrance of sins is fitted to humble, —of mistakes, to suggest wiser courses, —of mercies, to encourage.*

But as sure as Paul says, "remember" he also says, "forget."

### 1. Past Victories

*If you rest at the oar to muse complacently on what you have gained, you are mean time rapidly losing all the gain. Strenuously and perseveringly, then, Bend to the oar; and count nothing gained till all be gained.*

### 2. Past Failures

*With weak hearts like ours, the influence of memory is often perverse. As we recall past failures, we tend to despondency.*

Cliff analogy: Imagine the ocean...the tide is going out. On the beach is a high cliff overlooking the ocean. ON the high cliff stands Christ with his back to the edge of the cliff with his back to the ocean as the tide goes out. You meet him there and present to Him your sin.

Micah 7:19 *he will tread our iniquities underfoot*

Isaiah 38:17 *you have cast all my sins behind your back*

Micah 7:19 *You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea*

Psalm 103:12 *as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

Jeremiah 31:34 *I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more*

### 3. Past Offenses

- a. How often do we dwell on how we have been hurt, or how someone we love has been hurt? Let's not minimize the hurt, but let's forget, leave behind, past offenses
- b. Hebrews 12:15 *See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled*

## II. As for the present, work v12, v13, and v14

This is Paul! The apostle, missionary, church planter, sufferer, writer of many letters included in Scripture! And yet, at the end of his life, he says...I am not yet perfect. I have not yet laid hold of my goal.

If Paul could not rest content, neither can we!

1. Ezekiel 9:1-6
2. Amos 6:1 *Woe to those who are at ease in Zion And to those who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria*
3. *We don't sit at ease and Zion anymore. We have gone past that; we just sleep. in the church pillars have given place to pillows.* Ravenhill

### **III. As for the future, advance**

#### **1. Be Holy**

- a. The aim is perfection v12
- b. Genesis 17:1-2 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly."
- c. Matthew 5:48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- d. Ephesians 1:4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

#### **2. Pray Hard**

- a. Before leaving for India, William Carey told Andrew Fuller, "*I will go down into the pit, if you will hold the ropes.*"
- b. Fuller held the ropes by serving as president of the Baptist Mission Society from its founding until his death in 1814 and advocating for missionaries

#### **3. Give Sacrificially**

- a. Missionaries who go make great sacrifices
- b. Those who stay should give with equal sacrifice

#### **4. Go Aggressively**

#### **Conclusion:**

*But whatever you do, find the God-centered, Christ-exalting, Bible-saturated passion of your life, and find your way to say it and live for it and die for it. And you will make a difference that lasts. You will not waste your life....Remember, you have one life. That's all. You were made for God. Don't waste it.* Piper

Let's forget the things in the past that need to be forgotten, so that we can work in the present to advance the KOG in the future from here to the ends of the earth...Let's not waste our lives!