

Philippians 3:12-15

Should We Pay Heed to Our Past or Focus on what is Ahead?

Paul writes: "*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*"

Every Day with God

Do you have things in your past that bug you? Do you have regrets that you often think about?

Well, join the crowd. There is nothing we can do about past events. There over and done with. We can, however, as Paul writes: "*Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.*"



Photo: We need to focus on where we are going, not on where we have been.

If anyone were to have regrets, it was Paul. He was not a nice man. In fact, he was pretty vicious. He looked on, for example, when Stephen was stoned to death. No doubt, he took great pleasure in it. Then he found Christ, or, Christ found him.

Paul was in the business of helping others find Christ. That was his goal and he did a pretty good job of it. Even though he wrote today's words while confined to his home, he was hungry to continue his work. Can we be like Paul and forget our past and strive to do what God would want us to do? It's not easy to walk with Jesus, but as Christians, it's what God commands us to do.

Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for helping us forget our past and focus on what is ahead.