

FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND

SERMON SUNDAY MORNING JANUARY 21, 1968
Glasgow, Kentucky

Phil. 3:14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

INTRODUCTION:

Sunday morning, January 7, I spoke to you on the great business of REDEEMING THE TIME because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:16.

Sunday night, January 7, I spoke to you on THE SIN OF FORGETFULNESS even though Paul admonished us to forget the things behind. Phil. 3:13

Sunday morning, January 14, I preached to you on the WISDOM AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FORGETFULNESS based on Philippians 3:13 and other Scriptures.

This morning, January 21, I want to speak to you about SOMETHINGS WE SHOULD FORGET in order that we might indeed "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14

WHAT IT MEANS TO PRESS TOWARD THE MARK

1. What Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:24; "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain."

2. What the writer said in Hebrews 12:1,2; "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2-Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..."

3. SOME LESSONS FROM THESE VERSES:

1. There is a race that all must run.

1. So run that ye may obtain the prize.

2. Some are going to fail, "One receiveth the prize."

2. There are conditions of successful running.

1. Control of body and mind. 1 Cor. 9:27; "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection." Under control.

2. No looking back. Luke 9:62; "No man having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

3. Looking to Jesus. Heb. 12:2; "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..."

1. We are tempted in this race to play (gaze upon) the grandstand.

2. No athlete successful in basketball, football, baseball, or runner of a race, while he gazes at the spectators in the grandstand. SO:

4. FORGET LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT AND SIN:

1. Cumbered with sin we cannot run at all. We cannot to turn to God at all unless we turn away from sin.

2. Many are not running at all, and never started to run the heavenly race, because they are afraid of this one condition: GIVING UP SIN...NOT ABLE TO RUN THEREFORE.

3. There are many who one time started to run who thought themselves capable of looking back to the things of the past and like Lot's wife (Luke 17:32) tripped up, stumbled over the things of the past, fell down, and there they are today failures before God and man because they will not heed Paul's warning, FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND. So consider:

4. FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND. Some things we are to forget:

1. FORGET OUR BLUNDERS

1. One of the most useless of all habits is that of dragging along all the blunders of ones past. It is like being being chained to a dead body.

2. How often people say: "What a fool I was. Maybe you should change the tenses and say, "What a fool I am to keep everlastingly saying "What a fool I was." A man never displays more folly than when he is using up his energy and time in crying over spilt milk. He cannot be thankful for the milk that he has in the bottle."

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4. FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND, Continued; Some things we are to forget:

2. FORGET OUR INJURIES

Colossians 3:12-14; Paul said, 12-Put on therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13-

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14-And above all these things put on charity, (love) which is the bond of perfectness."

1. Life is a battle ground: We cannot go through life without being wounded. Sooner or later some body is going to hurt us.
2. Some may hurt us intentionally and maliciously and on purpose.
3. Some one tells a lie about us! Why did he? Because he is a liar himself!

4. What shall we do with all these slights, these insults, these offences?

FORGET THEM! What brooding on them will do to us:

1. Hate and grudge make up the heaviest load in all God's universe.
 2. Loaded down with hate and grudge a man is not master of himself, he is not free to do his best work.
 3. What some one said about Lincoln, "He has a heart as big as the whole world, but in it he has no room for the memory of a wrong."
5. Knowing the power of hurts and injuries remembered to destroy:
1. Shall I then prepare a chamber of remembrance for every such skeleton, thereby keeping up an interest in injuries?
 2. Would you feed a fever, keep open a festering sore, or help leprosy to grow?
6. FORGET THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND, live and be happy. REMEMBER THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND, LOOK BACK TO THEM, BE GOVERNED BY THEM, be a miserable man in this life and the life to come.

3. FORGET OUR SINS

1. Are we to forget them? Paul said we should. Can we forget them? Pauls say we can.
2. If you have repented of your sins, received forgiveness by obedience to him, God has buried those sins to be remembered no more. Why waste your time in digging up that which God has buried?

Jeremiah 31:34, "...for I will forgive their iniquity, and will remember their sin no more."

Micah 7:19, "...I will cast all their sins into the depth of the sea."

1. Shall I be diving down into the depth of the sea to get them and bring them up again? Not unless I want to label myself a fool.
3. HOW SHALL I GET FORGIVENESS OF MY SINS?:
1. If you will repent and turn to God, God says, Isaiah 1:18, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

LESSONS:

1. Wherever sin has kindled a blush of shame, the tears of penitence shall glisten in the radiance of reconciliation.
2. When death has dropped the curtain around an evening sleeper, the angel of hope shall hand her lamp from the lintel, and sit down upon the threshold, beside the angel of the resurrection to wonder at the beauty of the night, and wait for the glory of the morning. -GREAT IS THE LORD, page 90

