

**Series:** The Gospel According to Ebenezer Scrooge

**Sermon:** The Ghost of Christmas Past

**Primary Texts:** 1 Peter 1:9; Deuteronomy 4:9; Proverbs 24:16; 26:11; Ecclesiastes 7:10; Matthew 18:21-22, John 8:36; Romans 12:2; 15:4; 1 Corinthians 15:9; Philippians 4:13; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 John 1:9

**Discussion guide:**

- In “A Christmas Carol” Dickens portrays the ghost of Christmas past as having a light to shine. What do you think this means?
- What are some of your fondest memories?
- What are some of your most difficult ones?
- Read 1 Peter 1:9 (and preceding verses for context)
  - What is Peter saying about our past?
  - How can forgetting we are cleansed cause us not to grow in our Christian character?
- Read Philippians 4:13 - what does Paul seem to be saying about the past?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 & 1 Timothy 1:15 - has Paul forgotten his past?
  - In what sense should we forget or let go of our past?
  - In what sense should we remember it?
- Read Ecclesiastes 7:10 - what does this verse say about the past?
  - Is it wrong to reminisce?
  - When do fond memories become dangerous?
  - Why is it unwise to consider former days *better* than the present?