

# Let Go of the Past - Reach For the Future

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Sunday, August 4, 2024

## Read: Philippians 3:1–14

Paul recites his past accomplishments and credentials as a keeper of the law of Moses.

- His pure Jewish birth and upbringing.
- His becoming a part of the Pharisees.
  - A very strict – disciplined life
- His zeal for persecuting the church - this showed his dedication to his faulty beliefs.
  - Done in ignorance
- Paul had a seminary degree (the equivalent of his day) from a highly respected rabbi named Gamaliel.

He came to the knowledge of the truth in that none of these accomplishments could save Him.

**So, if you have decided that you could never change or that you will always be who you are today because you know that you will never have the power to change, then you're right.**

Paul was a righteous man, at least when it came to the law. However, the deeds of the law couldn't save Paul; nor can we save ourselves today by good behavior. It's not about being good but being righteous.

## Counting All Things Loss

*"7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom **I have suffered the loss of all things**, and **count them but rubbish** so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection."*

**Our efforts and accomplishments = rubbish; food scraps and/or dung.**

**The power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the power to become a new creation upon placing your full trust and reliance upon Him!**

**"(11) in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."**

**Raised to New Life From a Life Dead in Sin.**

Christ has done what we could never do. He overcame sin in the flesh. He has accomplished righteousness for us. By placing faith in Him, He gives us His righteousness.

**Romans 6:1–4** 1 *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

### **A New Life to Live – A New Race to Run**

12 *Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.*

**Paul knew that following Christ was ever leading Him to greater righteousness in Christ. We must never come to a stalemate in our spiritual growth or think that we have reached a height to which there is no more room for us to climb.**

The lesson here was and is that we cannot do it by ourselves, we need a savior - the savior, Jesus Christ!

Paul used the expression of a runner saying, "I press on!" With the life from Christ within us, we can faithfully stay on the course that leads us to the prize – the ultimate resurrection to eternal life!!!

### **Forgetting or letting go of the Past – Reaching for the future in Christ.**

*"one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*

**The past is gone. There is no future in dwelling on the past. Good or bad it's unchangeable.**

#### **The follower of Christ.**

Following Christ leads us to new places; He leads us from the familiar and comfortable into places where we must dare to trust Him. Following Christ is about moving forward and upward!

#### **The non-follower of Christ.**

The revolving door of sin and failure will never be closed by your hand. Jesus is the one who can bind the strong man and destroy his goods so that Christ can fill your life with the fruit of righteousness.

The sin of your past does not have to define your future. You are doomed to repeat it if you rely upon yourself to ever defeat it.

**Lets come before Christ to let go of everything but Him!!!  
Take hold of Christ! Let Him take hold of you!**