

# A FRESH START

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*Philippians 3:12-16*

*Part III*



## Philippians 3:12-16 (NLT)

12 *I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.*

13 No, dear brothers and sisters, *I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,* 14 *I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.* 15 Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe *God will make it plain to you.*

16 *But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.*

Week One We Discussed...

We Must Make *Commitments To The Lord* To Have A Fresh Start  
A Fresh Start Begins With A *Proper Evaluation Of Self!!!*



*Last Week We Discussed...*

*After A **Proper Evaluation Of Self...Then Evaluate Every Situation***

*Every Situation/Circumstance/Predicament Serves **A PURPOSE***

*Too Often We Focus On The **PARTICULARS** Rather Than **THE PROMISE***

*Don't Lose Your Joy **BECAUSE OF THE PAIN OF THE JOURNEY...** **GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE***

***Simplify Your Devotion/Dedication***

*We Must Stay **FOCUSED** On The Task At Hand*

*There is a **CHOICE** and **COMMITMENT***

***Be Strong In Your Determination***

*If You Are Preparing To Make A Fresh Start*

***KNOW THAT PEOPLE WILL UTILIZE YOUR PAST AS A DETERRENT***

*If I Stay Determined Toward My Destiny....*

*There Will Be Peace and Prosperity **BECAUSE OF MY PURPOSE***





# Introduction

*Like Many of Us... Paul has a plan for His Life...*

*His Plan is to PUT THE PAST RESOLUTELY BEHIND HIM and SET HIS SIGHTS ON NEW THINGS AHEAD.*

*Paul is leaving the past behind, and he is DETERMINED to not let it HANDICAP HIM in the future.*

*We all live in the tension of WHAT WE HAVE BEEN and WHAT WE WANT TO BE.*

*This is a difficult challenge*

*Some People Live in the Past ~ Can't Enjoy the Present ~ Not Concerned About Future*

*Some People Only Live For Right Now ~ No Concern About The Future*

*Some People Focus/Worry About Tomorrow and Fail To Learn From Yesterday or Live Today*

## *There Has To Be A Proper Perspective*

*Someone has well said that TODAY is THE TOMORROW YOU WORRIED ABOUT YESTERDAY*

*If TODAY was a day of defeat, I've got good news for you. TOMORROW is another day to go forward...*

*If you fell down spiritually TODAY, then get back up and go on TOMORROW...*

*Too many Christians are shackled by REGRETS OF THE PAST.*

*We may wish that we could ERASE certain bad memories, but we cannot.*

*WE MUST CONTINUE TO PRESS FORWARD....*



# The Blueprint To Dealing With The Past

## Philippians 3:13-16 (NLT)

13 No, dear brothers and sisters, *I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead*, 14 *I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

For some this could be a difficult challenge ~ Should I Forget... Or Should I Remember

**Isaiah 46:9**

**REMEMBER** the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me...

**Ecclesiastes 12:1**

**REMEMBER** also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near...

**Revelation 2:5**

**REMEMBER** therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.

**Psalms 143:5**

I **REMEMBER** the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

**John 14:26**

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your **REMEMBRANCE** all that I have said to you.





# The Blueprint To Dealing With The Past

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### Paul Say “Forget”....

To **FORGET** in this Passage does not mean “**FAIL TO REMEMBER**”

But it means “to make **A CONSCIOUS REFUSAL** to let the things of the past **CONSUME OUR ATTENTION**”

To Forget in this Passage means “to no longer be **INFLUENCED BY** or **AFFECTED BY THE PAST**”

Paul Says **I REFUSE** to let my past... **ROB ME OF MY CURRENT VICTORIES...**

Paul Refused To Allow **HIS HISTORY** To **HOLD HIM HOSTAGE**

### Forgetting Those Things Behind...

Simply means that **WE BREAK THE POWER OF THE PAST** by living/striving for the future.

We cannot **CHANGE THE PAST**... But We can **LEARN FROM IT...**



# The Blueprint To Dealing With The Past

“Jesus Did Not Forget ~ He **CHOOSES** Not To Remember”

## **Hebrews 10:16-17 (NIV)**

16 "This is the covenant *I will make with them after that time*, says the Lord.  
*I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.*"

17 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts **I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.**"

God says, I will make a **CONSCIOUS EFFORT** Not To Remember...

Because He Is **Intentional In His Attitude** Toward Remembering...  
He **Controls The Action** Toward The Recipient...

## **Psalms 103:10, 12 (NIV)**

10 **He does not TREAT US as our sins deserve or REPAY US according to our iniquities.**  
12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has **HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US.**



# “Learn To Put The Past In Perspective”

## 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (NASB)

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, 13 *even though I was FORMERLY a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor.*

*YET I WAS SHOWN MERCY BECAUSE I ACTED IGNORANTLY IN UNBELIEF...*

15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, *AMONG WHOM I AM FOREMOST OF ALL.* 16 Yet for this reason *I FOUND MERCY*, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might *DEMONSTRATE HIS PERFECT PATIENCE AS AN EXAMPLE* for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

God Takes My Past... And *USES IT AS AN EXAMPLE* Of His Grace/Mercy  
People Look at your *PAST AS A DISGRACE...* God Uses It *AS A DEMONSTRATION*

*THE EVENTS DID NOT CHANGE, but HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THEM CHANGED*

Example: Joseph Forgave His Brothers

Joseph *REALIZED* that God had a plan for his life ~ and in fulfilling that plan and looking ahead, *HE BROKE THE POWER OF THE PAST.*





# One Thing: Forget The Past And Look Forward To What Is Ahead

## Philippians 3:13-14

13 No, dear brothers and sisters, *I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead*, 14 *I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

It's Not Enough To *Control The Past...* One Must *Continue To Press Forward*

When You Clean Out *Yesterday's Memories...* There Must Be An *Expectation/Hope* That *Replaces It*

## Matthew 12:43-45 (NLT)

43 "When an evil spirit *leaves a person*, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none.

44 Then it says, '*I will return to the person I came from.*'

*SO IT RETURNS AND FINDS ITS FORMER HOME EMPTY, SWEEPED, AND IN ORDER.*

45 Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And *SO THAT PERSON IS WORSE OFF THAN BEFORE....*

Forgetting Yesterday Is *GOOD...* But *THE GOAL* You Are Seeking To Reach Must Remain *Your Focus*



# ***“THE GOAL Must Be Greater Than THE GOOD of the Past”***

## *The Goal To Reach*

***Exodus 3:8 (NLT)***

*8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into THEIR OWN FERTILE AND SPACIOUS LAND. It is A LAND FLOWING WITH MILK AND HONEY*

## *The Good of the Past*

***Numbers 11:5-6***

*WE REMEMBER THE FISH, which we did eat IN EGYPT FREELY; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic... But now our soul is dried away:  
THERE IS NOTHING AT ALL, BESIDE THIS MANNA, BEFORE OUR EYES.*

***Exodus 16:3 (NIV)***

*3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There We sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."*

## *What Causes Us To Reflect on the Good of the Past?*

*When You Lose Focus on the Goal You Are Pursuing!!!*

***Exodus 14:15 (NIV)***

*15 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to MOVE ON.*



***“THE GOAL Must Be Greater Than THE GOOD of the Past”***

*The Saints of Yesterday said.....*

*I'm pressing on the upward way*

*New heights I'm gaining every day*

*Still praying as I onward bound*

*Lord, plant my feet on higher ground*

*Lord, lift me up, and let me stand*

*By faith on heaven's tableland*

*A higher plane than I have found*

*Lord, plant my feet on higher ground*

*My heart has no desire to stay*

*Where doubts arise and fears dismay*

*Though some may dwell where those abound*

*MY PRAYER, MY AIM, IS HIGHER GROUND*

*ARE YOU STILL PRESSING TOWARD HIGHER GROUND...*





# **“Don’t Lose Sight Of Your *DEVELOPMENT*”**

**Philippians 3:15-16 (NLT)**

15 Let all who are **spiritually mature** agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. 16 But we must **HOLD ON TO THE PROGRESS WE HAVE ALREADY MADE.**

Part of **CHRISTIAN MATURITY** is knowing that **you haven’t arrived yet,**  
**THAT THERE’S STILL PLENTY OF ROOM TO GROW.**

**The Battle Cry Of Every Believer**

“I am not what I **should be**. I am not what I **want to be**.  
I am not what I **will be**, but praise God **I AM NOT WHAT I USED TO BE!**”

**Let’s Continue To Make Progress As We Press Toward Our Purpose**



# *In Conclusion*

## *Your Fresh Start*

- Begins With *Self and Situation Evaluation*
  - *Simplify* Your Devotion/Dedication
    - Focus In The *Right Direction*
  - *Be Strong* In Your Determination
- Don't Lose Sight Of *Your Development*