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Forgetting The Past

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Phil. 3:13-16

Generation too full of floundering, confused people.
 Uncertain about past, in doubt about present, fear future.
INV: Advantage of the Christian. Is settled in purpose and goal.
 Tonight's hope. Other's will lay claim to this blessing.

I. WHAT IS IN THE PAST TO BE FORGOTTEN?

- A. Success—which is often the father of slothfulness.
 1. Most everyone tastes success at least once.
 2. Not everyone can digest it properly. I Tim. 3:6. **PRIDE**
- B. Sin—which is the mother of disagreeable memories.
 1. A companion of all living souls. Romans 3:23.
 2. All not awake to the results of it. " 6:23.
- C. Sacrifices—sometimes the grandfather of pride.
 1. a source of genuine satisfaction when authentic.
 2. A futile venture when just for show. I Cor. 13:3.
- D. Failures—occasionally the grandmother of discouragement.
 1. Comes only to thinkers, doers and those trying to be.
 2. Can be stepping stones to greater achievements.

II. WHY FORGET THE THINGS OF THE PAST?

- A. Success of the past does not guarantee it in the future.
 1. Can create over-confidence and false security.
 2. Such are unfit for the kingdom of God. Luke 9:62.
- B. Sins, once committed, are never undone. Part of past.
 1. Grief not erase sin, only remove guilt. II Cor. 7:10.
 2. Judas felt that he could never forget the past.
- C. Sacrifices are good for the day they are made only.
 1. No limit to sacrifices we can make. Luke 17:10.
 2. Ill. One payment on car does not erase next 11 months.
- D. Failures need not signal final, decisive defeat.
 1. Regrets are not the stuff success is made of.
 2. Ill. Abe Lincoln: Lost 16 offices before won Presidency

III. WHAT IN THE FUTURE SHOULD REPLACE THE PAST?

- A. Life of reaching forth to better things ahead. vs. 13.
 1. Paul did not claim un-losable salvation. vs. 13.
 2. Letter written three years before his death. I C. 15:58
- B. Life of pressing toward the prize before him. vs. 14
 1. Prize offered only to those who answer call. II T. 2:11
 2. To busy striving for crown to look back. II Tim. 4:8.
- C. Christians busy developing a new mind. vs. 15
 1. New mind given for sacrifice of body. Romans. 12:1-2.
 2. Only those with new mind enjoy the new society.

INV: Some hesitate because of the past. Forget it. B-R-C-B.
 Erring: Cannot forget the past until repent and pray.