

Last week:**Isaiah 43:18 - 19 (NASB)**

¹⁸ "Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past.

¹⁹ "Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth;

Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness,
Rivers in the desert.

Today:**Philippians 3:13 - 15 (NASB)**

¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead,

¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;

- The unsaved person is controlled by the past, but the Christian running the race looks toward the future.
- The believer should be future-oriented, "forgetting those things which are behind." In Bible terminology, "to forget" does *not* mean "to fail to remember." "To forget" Biblically means "no longer to be influenced by or affected by."
- When God promises, "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" (Heb. 10:17), He is not suggesting that He will conveniently have amnesia! This is impossible with God. What God is saying is, "I will no longer hold their sins against them. Their sins can no longer affect their standing with Me or influence My attitude toward them."
- So, "forgetting those things which are behind"
simply means that we break the power of the past by living for the future.

The transformative power of genuine forgiveness

- A good example of this principle is Joseph (Gen. 45:1-15). When he met his brothers the second time and revealed himself to them, he held no grudge against them. To be sure, they had mistreated him, but he saw the past from God's point of view. As a result he was unable to hold anything against his brothers.

- Joseph knew that God had a plan for his life—a race for him to run—and in fulfilling that plan and looking ahead, he broke the power of the past.
- Too many Christians are shackled by remorse and regrets of the past. They are trying to run the race by looking backward! No wonder they stumble and fall!
- Some Christian runners are being distracted by the *successes* of the past, not the failures; and this is just as bad. Remember what happened to Lot's wife? (Gen. 19:26)

Monday Morning Moment *action step*

"By God's help, I will strive to improve my serve today!"

Psa 20:7 (ESV)

⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.