

Melva's Corner

Time To Stop Looking Back



Tapping the Source of Power

Central Truth: God wants us to live today!

As we get older, we have a tendency to look back, and if we aren't careful, to give in to the selective eyesight that sees only the problems and failures of the past. It's too easy to look for someone in the past to blame or resent and way too easy to stumble around in bitterness and regret.

The best thing to do with the past is to learn from it, while keeping our eyes on today and looking forward to the days to come!

Jesus talks about a man who "looks back" because he is not ready for service in the kingdom of God (Luke 9:62). Now what that passage is telling us is that the past can be a distraction that keeps us from being what the Lord needs us to be today! The apostle Paul talks about "forgetting what is behind" and moving on toward the things that God has ahead (Philippians 3:13). We've got to stay centered in today, seeking to honor God and living for His future. Remember what Jesus taught us to pray: ". . . your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10 TNIV).

The best way to change the past is to live the way God wants us to live today, rooted in the moment and living for God — in service to others and in service to the Kingdom.

In doing so we must have a destination. Let's not beat ourselves up for not arriving. You see, a lot of folks live in the past. They stagnate and feel guilty because they haven't gotten anywhere in life. Others try to live in the glory days of the past. That's just as bad. But then they don't have a clear picture of where they want to go, so they go nowhere. You probably know the saying: "If you head out for nowhere in particular you are bound to get there." Well, it's true!

So we need to have a godly goal to go after. One that is bigger than our dilemmas, our problems, and ourselves. We need a godly goal! We need something that draws us onward and upward, something to set our sights on. Better yet, we need our sights set on Someone greater. Pray for His wisdom, His insight, His help, His guidance, His power, and His strength to help you identify that "something" and then go for it.

More than likely you probably already know these steps. They may even sound simplistic. But when you get down to the bottom of most complex problems, there are usually some very simple solutions that help you put together a plan to solve them. One at a time, eye on the goal, going through the simple steps and one day the problem is solved or the goal is achieved.

Have you ever wondered how Paul was able to bear up under stress, persecution, and pressure? He learned to put the past into the past by forgetting what was behind him. Second, he was always looking forward toward what was ahead and kept on shufflin' toward it. Third, he had a goal, a mission, and he pressed on to that goal. For Paul, that goal was "heavenward." You know what, I think if we keep at it, we may just find ourselves in the same place with Paul.

Scriptural References:

"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is

calling us up to heaven . . . You who are mature Christians will agree on these things.” (Philippians 3:12-15 NLT)