

◆ THE ◆ Post

Forget or Remember?

*A Lesson from the
Apostle Paul*

Remembering to Forget

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind** and straining forward to what lies ahead

-- Philippians 3:13

past



Remembering to Forget

Though I myself have **reason for confidence in the flesh** also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for **confidence in the flesh**, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to **righteousness under the law**, blameless. (vv. 4-6)

past



Remembering to Forget

- Spiritual Self-Confidence Destroys

Saul of Tarsus

Pedigree: Hebrew of Hebrews

Education & Skills:

- School of Gamaliel
- Excellent Writing Skills
- Outstanding Debating Skills

Personal References:

- Jewish Religious Elite

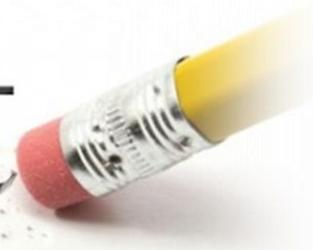


Saul of Tarsus (Page 2)

Experience:

- Consenter to Blasphemers' deaths
- Locater/Persecutor of Christians

past



Remembering to Forget

- Spiritual Self-Confidence Destroys **Anyone**
 - Seek to offset sin by self-determined good qualities

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that **I am not like other men**, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.**

past



Remembering to Forget

- Spiritual Self-Confidence Destroys **Anyone**
 - Seek to offset sin by self-determined good qualities

But he answered his father, 'Look, these many years **I have served you**, and **I never disobeyed your command**, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.

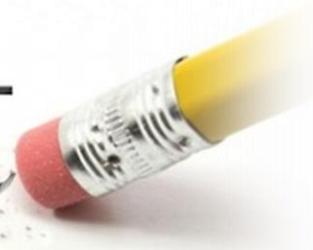
past



Remembering to Forget

- Paul's Remedy: Forget Self; Remember Jesus

past



But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss **for the sake of Christ**. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. **For his sake** I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order **that I may gain Christ** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through **faith in Christ**, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the **power of his resurrection**, and may **share his sufferings**, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, **because Christ Jesus has made me his own**. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind** and straining forward to what lies ahead, **I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus**. (3:7-14)

Remembering to Forget

- Paul's Remedy: Forget Self; Remember Jesus
 - Forget past accomplishments
 - Eliminate self-congratulatory attitude
 - Leave “the remembering” to God

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”— Revelation 14:13



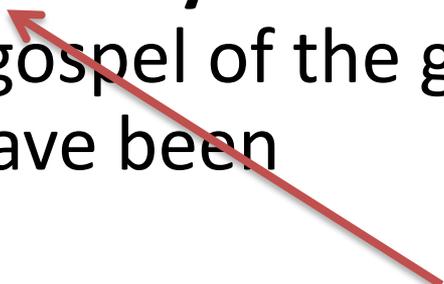
Remembering to Remember

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, **of whom I am the foremost.** – I Timothy 1:15



Understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (vv. 9-11)

Understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for **murderers**, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and **whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine**, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (vv. 9-11)



Where Paul Once had Been

Remembering to Remember

Saul of Tarsus



- **Blasphemer:**
 - Slanderous, evil speaking of Jesus and followers
- **Persecutor:**
 - One who hunts down
- **Insolent:**
 - Damaging others; nasty spirit/pleasure in hurting

Remembering to Remember

- Why Remember?
 - **Not** to beat oneself up over past sins
 - Reminder of what hopelessness felt like
 - Reminder of what has been given

But I received **mercy** because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the **grace of our Lord overflowed** for me with the **faith** and **love** that are in Christ Jesus. (vv. 13b-14)



Remembering to Remember

- Why Remember?
 - Paul desired to be the “prototype”
 - Example of Jesus’ **perfect** patience with a stubborn man
 - So Jesus can be glorified

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, **of whom I am the foremost**. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.



Remembering to Remember

- Admonition and Encouragement
 - There is a balance in dealing with the past
 - We must never rest on past successes
 - We must remember where we once were

Helpful to others to share this message of Jesus' patience



**"I, even I, am he
who blots out your
transgressions,
FOR MY OWN SAKE,
and remembers
your sins no more."**

Isaiah 43:25