

## Forgetting

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by Wayne Goff

*“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,” (Philippians 3:13).*

It is good to forget some things, and the apostle Paul affirms the same by inspiration. It is good to forget the sins of your youth of which you have repented (Ps. 25:7). It is good to forget your previous life lived for pleasure but which produced no lasting value (Rom. 6:21). It is good to forget the harsh words others have spoken against you. It is good to forget the sinful deeds others may have committed against you. Remembering these things; reliving them over and over again, only brings bitterness. It is better to forget as you forgive, because Christ forgave you (Eph. 4:32). It is good to forget one’s past accomplishments. Living in the past and recalling one’s “glory days” leads to complacency (Phil. 3:12-13).

As the year comes to a close later this evening, Lord willing, there are many things which should be tossed aside like so much “baggage,” lest it weigh you down and cause you to grow weary.

Tomorrow morning will dawn a new day and a new year. But the calendar will not change our lives, nor leave behind the **consequences** of our past sins or successes. These things will come with us! As Christians, it is our job to practice “*sanctification*” — the act of eliminating sinful thoughts and practices that might remain in our lives (1 Thess. 4:3). It is also good to “review” the past year now and make any necessary corrections so that the past year can be brought to a spiritual close as well. “*Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves....*” 2 Cor. 13:5. Better to judge and correct yourself than to find yourself lacking in the Day of Judgment!

Having done all you can to be right in the sight of the Lord, you can “forget” those things which are behind, and reach forward to those things which are ahead (Phil. 3:13) and know that your salvation is nearer than when you first believed (Rom. 13:11).

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