

Looking Back...

- We cannot go forward until we stop looking back unless we are **planning** to stumble. Until we take past experiences and apply the knowledge and wisdom gained to future benevolent and evangelistic endeavors, we will remain stagnant and could end up dissolving such a great work for the Lord.

Luk 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

- Jesus, when warning His followers of the coming destruction of Jerusalem, told them that when they saw the signs pertaining to it they weren't even to go into their houses and retrieve supplies because of the suddenness of the Roman invasion. They were to just focus on getting away and weren't even to as much as look back. Then He made the statement:

Luk 17:32 **Remember Lot's wife. (?)**

Gen 19:17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

Gen 19:23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. 24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; 25 And He overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. 26 But his (*Lot's*) wife **looked back** from behind him, and she **became a pillar of salt.**

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at our youth...

Psa 25:7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to Thy mercy remember Thou me for Thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

- "Oh to be young again!" Some might desire to relive their youth but to do so one would have to give up the wisdom that usually comes with age.

Ecc 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these *things* God will bring thee into judgment. 10 Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth *are* vanity (*Heb.1892-transitory* [*Webster: not enduring; temporary; fleeting*]).

Ecc 12:1 **Remember** (*Heb.2142-to mark [so as to be recognized]*) **now** thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days (*days of affliction that come with aging*) come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure (*they don't mean anything to me*) in them;

- If we remember God in our youth we won't have many regrets later as adults.

at life's temporal nature...

Ecc 9:9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity (*Heb.1892-figuratively something transitory*) [*Heb 11:13 and 1 Pet 2:11 states that we are just "strangers and pilgrims"*], which He hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that *is* **thy portion in this life**, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun. **10** Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest (*"git 'er done" here 'cause there won't be any later*). **11** I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the **swift**, nor the battle to the **strong**, neither yet bread to the **wise**, nor yet riches to **men of understanding**, nor yet favour to **men of skill**; but **time and chance happeneth to them all**. **12** For man also **knoweth not his time** (*no one knows how long they have*): as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so *are* the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it **falleth suddenly** upon them.

Ecc 2:16 For *there is* no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now *is* in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And **how dieth the wise man? as the fool**.

Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Rom 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. **12** The **night is far spent**, the **day is at hand**: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the **armour of light**. (*Eph 6:11-17*)

- Going back only puts us further away from **Heaven** to where we once were in the world.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven** for you,..

at where we were...

- It seems most of us do it. When we talk about the things we did before becoming **Christians** we almost brag as if we miss the sins we once committed. Was life so "enjoyable"? Would we want to miss the joys of **Heaven** to relive the sins of the past?

2Pe 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are **again entangled therein**, and overcome, the **latter end is worse** with them **than the beginning**. **21** For it had been **better for them** (*not that it isn't going to be bad!!*) **not to have known** the way of righteousness, **than, after they have known it, to turn** from the holy commandment delivered unto them. **22** But it is happened unto them

according to the true proverb, The dog **is turned to his own vomit again**; and the sow that **was washed** to her **wallowing in the mire**.

Php 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended (*Gk.2638-take eagerly, seize, possess, obtain*): but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting **those things which are behind**, and **reaching forth** (*Gk.1901-stretch forward upon*) **unto those things which are before** (*Gk.1715-in front of*), **14** I press **toward the mark** (*Gk.4649-goal*) for the prize of the high calling (*Gk.2821-invitation*) [*welcome mat*] of God in Christ Jesus.

- There is a saying: "Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it." The **Christian** should "forget the past and move forward doing good and the past won't condemn us when it's repeated!"

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so **easily beset** (*Gk.2139-[a competitor] thwarting [a racer]*) us, and let us run with patience the race that is **set before** us, **2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Presently

Joh 9:4 **I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.**

- **Jesus made a statement that should apply to every Christian.** It is now day. There is work to be done. We rest when the **Lord** comes or when death takes us home, whichever comes first.

2Ti 4:1 I charge (*Gk.1263-protest earnestly*) thee ("*thee*" not in the original manuscript) therefore before (*Gk.1799-in the presence [sight] of*) God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; **2** Preach (*Gk.2784-herald, proclaim*) the word; be instant (*Gk.2186-stand upon*) [*like instant mashed potatoes, we are to be ready at all times*] in season (*Gk.2122-opportunity*), out of season (*Gk.171-inopportunity*) [*whenever it's convenient or not, we are to proclaim the message of the gospel even if it means that we create the opportunity to do so*]; reprove (*Gk.1651-convince*), rebuke (*Gk.2008-tax upon, admonish, forbid*), exhort (*Gk.3870-to call near, invite, implore, beseech*) [*even if it means we are to beg someone to hear the truth, it's that important*] with all longsuffering (*Gk.3115-patience*) and doctrine. **3** For the time will come when they will not endure (*Gk.430-hold oneself up against*) sound (*Gk.5198-uncorrupt*) doctrine [*thus the importance of daily Bible study*]; but after their own lusts (*Gk.1939-a longing [especially for what is forbidden]*) shall they heap (*Gk.2002-accumulate further*) to themselves teachers, having itching (*Gk.2833-to tickle*) ears [*people seem think that ignorance is bless and what they don't know won't hurt them*]; **4** And they shall turn away (*Gk.654-pervert* [Webster: 1. to lead astray, corrupt 3. to distort]) *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (*Gk.3454-fiction ["myth"]*). **5** But watch (*Gk.3525-keep sober*) thou in all things, endure afflictions (*Gk.2553-undergo hardship*) [*yes, even if it means turning off the television*], do the work

(Gk.2041-toil) of an evangelist (Gk.2099-preacher of the gospel), make full proof (Gk.4135-to carry out fully [in evidence], completely assure [or convince], entirely accomplish, fully know [persuade]) of thy ministry (Gk.1248-attendance [as a servant], service [especially of the Christian teacher]).

Gal 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do (Gk.2038-to toil, be engaged in) good (Gk.18-benefit) unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

- To work laboriously at doing things that benefit others takes selflessness that only someone who is like Jesus can do. Notice, I didn't just say "like Jesus", I said "someone who is like Jesus". Aren't we all supposed to be "Christ-like"?

Looking forward...

2Ti 4:8 Henceforth (Gk.3063-something remaining, furthermore) there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

- How can a person look forward to a paycheck they never worked for? Likewise a Christian who has never labored in the Master's vineyard? We all desire the reward, but how much are we willing to put into the work to obtain it?

Joh 6:27 **Labour not** for the meat which **perisheth**, **but** for that meat which **endureth** unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for Him hath God the Father sealed.

- Just as we need to provide for our families' physical needs we also need to provide for the spiritual. A person can starve to death physically, but how often do we think of them starving to death spiritually?

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Remember

Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the **former** (Gk.4413-protos-foremost, first, former) [as opposed to *eskhatos* which is *last*] **things** are passed away.

Hear: Romans 10:17 ..."faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: Lk 13:3 ..."except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: Acts 2:38 ..."repent and be baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"...

Remain faithful: Rom 6:4 ..."even so we also should walk in newness of life."

November 13, 2011

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