

Leave the Past in the Past

May 15, 2022

The past has informed and molded us, but the past is the past: the past is so yesterday. But too often the past enslaves us; we allow it to dictate the decisions we make today. The church ... and each of us ... cannot afford to allow the past to get in the way of the future. Investing in the past will bankrupt us in every way. Dividends are only paid to those who invest in the future.

Philippians 3:5–14

1. The past is a _____.
2. The past is not the _____ – and when it is, it gets in the way
3. What we do in the _____ affects the future.

Additional Thoughts

Digging Deeper

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Philippians 3:5–14

1. Read Philippians 3:1–6. Why do you think Paul felt the need to share his “pedigree” with his readers?
2. According to the Jewish religious rules, how do you think Paul was looked on by his peers?
3. Why do you think Paul said that all of his former accomplishments were garbage? (the Greek word translated here as “garbage” is never properly translated because it is considered a rather vulgar word)
4. What do you think Paul's vision of the future might have looked like? What do you think his “goal” was?
5. In verse 13, he writes that the one thing he does is to forget “what is behind” and to strain “toward what is ahead.” Why is this good advice?
6. What are some things in your past that have gotten in the way of your future?
7. What is your vision for the future?
8. How do you think Paul was able to keep his focus on the future?
9. How will you keep your focus on your vision and the future?