

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-14  
Date: November 11, 2007

### HOW TO GET PAST MY PAST

1 Timothy 4:15 *Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.*

Four steps for forgetting the past and moving on to the future...

1. **REALIZE I'M NOT \_\_\_\_\_!**  
Philippians 3:12a **Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect...**

Romans 7:15 (CEV) *In fact, I don't understand why I act the way I do. I don't do what I know is right. I do the things I hate.*

Hebrews 12:22-23 *You have now come to Mount Zion and to the heavenly Jerusalem...Here you will find all of God's dearest children, whose names are written in heaven. And you will find God himself, who judges everyone. Here also are the spirits of those good people who have been made perfect.*

2. **WORK THROUGH MY \_\_\_\_\_!**  
Philippians 3:12b **...but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.**

Hebrews 12:1 *So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us.*

Romans 5:3-4 *We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us-- they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady.*

Hebrews 12:2-3 *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith... so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

3. **FORGET MY \_\_\_\_\_!**  
Philippians 3:13b *Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind...***

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.*  
Isaiah 43:18 *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.*

Job 8:7 *Your future will be brighter by far than your past.*

4. **LOOK \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE \_\_\_\_\_!**  
Philippians 3:13b-14 *... and **straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal** to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

Jeremiah 29:11-14 *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

### ***Which action will you take today?***

- I'm going to be happy with who I am, strive to reach God's standard, but realize that I'm not perfect.
- I'm going to decide today to keep a positive focus and work through the tough times realizing that God is molding my character.
- I'm going to forget my past mistakes and begin to move forward to live the life God wants me to live.
- Instead of wasting my time living in the past I'll put my faith in God and start reaching to the future to fulfill God's dreams and goals for my life.