



Leaving the Past Behind

Message by Arthur Crane, 13th January, 2019

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:13,14

Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on toward the goal.

Contexts:

- textually, of the letter: A prison letter – from a prison in Philippi.
- Of today - a crossroads of years 2018/2019
- a NEW year, a fresh, 365 days.

As one year passes and a new year stretches ahead of us it is an opportunity for examination/assessment, for making plans and for New Year resolutions!!!

But plans are most often constrained by present circumstances.

AND God has plans for us Jeremiah 29.11

1. **Forgetting** what is behind (Philippians. 3:13) ... **A PAST**

It is failing to notice, overlooking the effects, not allowing the effects to take hold on my life, things you don't have time for, simply allowing it to slip your memory. ... not 'living in the past'. Stripping off every weight, (life's surplus baggage). The disciples had *forgotten* to take bread (See Matthew 16).

Psalm 90.12 – **Teach us to number our days so we may get a heart of wisdom**

Consider events which tend to spoil our walk with the Lord and our relationships with his people.

- Some events can be repaired and some can't
- Overlook the effects ... LIFE'S SURPLUS BAGGAGE
- Neglect those negative effects.
- Just slipped my memory.. In Matthew 16:5 the disciples had forgotten (neglected, an oversight) to take bread. This word is the same word a used here in Philippians 3:13
- No longer caring about Not having time for...
- Take the attitude "I've moved on from there." It doesn't bother me any more.... Just not there any more. It's a superfluity.
- Not living in the past ... a disentanglement.

2. And ***straining toward*** what is ahead (Philippians. 3:13) ... **A PRESENT**

- Stretching out towards what is ahead – **If it is you, Lord, call me...** Matthew 14:28
- **Backpack resources** - bottles of water...
- **Heartpack resources** - What do we take with us? Trust in God. “**They took him along ...**” Mark 4.36. Don’t forget!!
... **GOD**: Take thoughts like - Malachi 3.6 “**For I am the Lord, I change not ...**” and Isaiah 9.6 “**For unto us a child is born, ... the Prince of Peace.**” Jesus left his disciples with good instruction in John 14-16.

3. ***I press on toward the goal to win the prize.*** (verse 14) **A FUTURE**

- A strong word, like harassment, constant endeavour, seeking it more and more.
- Near goals and distant goals, short term and long term, immediate and end of the road. Matt 25:23 “Well done, good and faithful servant; ...”
- Without movement there is no steering.