



UNPACKING CHRISTMAS: Letting Go of Your Past

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¹²I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

¹³No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing:

Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Philippians 3:12-14 NLT

1. Your Past Cannot Be Denied

¹ Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. ³ But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.

Acts 8:1, 3 NLT

2. Your Past Does Not Define You

All who heard him were amazed. "Isn't this the same man who caused such devastation among Jesus' followers in Jerusalem?" they asked. "And didn't he come here to arrest them and take them in chains to the leading priests?"

Acts 9:21 NLT

3. Your Past Does Not Dictate Your Future

But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel."

Acts 9:15 NLT

How to Let Go of Your Past

1. Give Your Past to Jesus

... Forgetting the past ... -

Philippians 3:13 NLT

2. Place your future in Jesus by remembering:

- God has a destiny for me

... looking forward to what lies ahead. -

Philippians 3:13 NLT

- My future is greater than my past

I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Philippians 3:14 NLT