Moving Beyond the Past
Philippians 3:1-13
Obstacles
An Obstacle is something that “hinders movement” or “stops forward progression”.

Moving Beyond the Past
Moving Beyond the Past

• **An Example of OBSTACLES:**
  • Spiritual Obstacles
  • Personal (Issues) Obstacles
  • Financial Obstacles
  • Relational Obstacles
  • Physical Obstacles
  • Mental Obstacles
Moving Beyond the Past

**The Past (Obstacle)**
- We are **Captives** of our past...or
- We are **Captivated** by our past
Moving Beyond the Past

A. CAPTIVE
   • **Means:** I am in bondage (*chains*) to something in my Past

B. CAPTIVATED
   • **Means:** I am attracted to something in my Past
Moving Beyond the Past

- **Captive**
  - Symptoms of Bondage:
    - Shame
    - Guilt
    - Regret
    - Low Self-Esteem/Confidence
    - Bitterness
    - Anger
    - Depression

- In this particular instance:
  1. We have **ALLOWED** the Past to **HOLD US**
  2. We don’t know how to get free
Moving Beyond the Past

- **Captivated**

- **Symptoms of Attraction:**
  - Struggle with Moral Choices
  - Yield often to Certain Passions
  - Frustrated with Present lifestyle
  - Flirt with the Idea of “Just one more Time”
  - Always thinking about “What could have been”

- **In this particular instance:**
  1. We are **ALLOWING OURSELVES** to **HOLD ON** to the **Past**
  2. We have no desire to be free
A. Paul shows that he could brag or be captivated by his Past

1. Circumcised according to the Jewish Law vs. 5
2. Born in the Israelite tribe of Benjamin vs. 5
3. A devout Pharisee vs. 5
4. Faithful to the Old Testament law vs. 6
Moving Beyond the Past

A. Breaking the Cycle of the Past
   1. Recognize the Past has no Value or Power
Moving Beyond the Past

A. Breaking the Cycle of the Past
   2. Place value in my Relationship w Christ vs. 8-11

   • **We Must Cultivate a Desire to:**
   • **Know Christ**
     o When I get to know him...I have no desire to sin against him

   • **But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is.** 1 Jn 3:6 (NLT).
Moving Beyond the Past

A. Breaking the Cycle of the Past
   1. Place value in my Relationship w Christ vs. 8-11
      • We Must Cultivate a Desire to:
        • Experience His Power (Holy Spirit)
          o The Anointing of the Holy Spirit breaks yokes
            (the past is a yoke)

      • And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing
        Isa 10:27 (KJV)
Moving Beyond the Past

A. Breaking the Cycle of the Past
   1. Place value in my Relationship w Christ vs. 8-11

• We Must Cultivate a Desire to:
• Identify w/ His death
  o When I die with Christ...I Die to my Past

• My old self (my past) has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me Gal 2:20 (NLT)
Moving Beyond the Past

A. Breaking the Cycle of the Past

3. Forget the Past – Focus on the next step vs. 13
Moving Beyond the Past

- Phil. 3:1-13 - NLT
- Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.
- Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!
- I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.
Moving Beyond the Past

- Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, 7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

- 12 I 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. 13 No, 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
Moving Beyond the Past

• “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

• Is 43:18–21 (NIV)