

What you Should Forget and What you Should not Forget Philippians 3:12-14

As we finish the last of 2017, it's important to look back on our lives and see what we should forget and what we should remember.

What should we forget?

1. Forget your past mistakes and failures

Every person experiences mistakes and failures. Everyone fails in different ways, there is no one that is perfect. We live holding those past mistakes in our heart never forgetting them, and they do nothing to help us.

Peter was closer than the other disciples to Jesus, he was loved dearly by Him. But Peter vehemently denied Jesus three times and God allowed Peter to see how weak he was when the rooster crowed. Peter could have wallowed in that mistake and let it overtake him; instead, he used it as a stepping stone to be a blessing to others and lead thousands to Christ.

No matter how much you think about your past mistakes, you cannot turn back time and there is no way to change the past. I hope that you can use those mistakes and failures as a stepping stone to make an even greater future than you would have before.

2. Repent of your sins and then forget them

Before, there was a guilt that followed you after you had committed a sin. If Jesus Christ did not die and rise again for your sins, that guilt would never have been erased.

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)

When God washed away all your sins, He also took away the wounds those sins produced and remembers them no more.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

We believe that when we confess our sins with a sincere heart that our righteous God will cleanse our hearts completely. I hope that we are a people that confess our sins and become whole through our God.

3. Forget the hurt and anger you have towards others

Hating someone is not just poison for your soul, it will affect your physical health as well. Therefore you must throw away that hate completely or it will gather in your heart. Simply going through your past will not make your hate disappear. Jesus tells us how to overcome this hate.

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. (Proverbs 10:12)

It says that love covers all faults. But on the opposite side, there is no end to the amount of faults and therefore the amount of anger and pain that can be caused by those offenses. If God begins to expose our past, we would not be able to survive.

When you forgive, you must forget. We try to just partially cover these offenses and faults with our own strength. The hurts we receive from our relatives and those around us, the resentment formed between the parents and their children, the pain between husband and wife, and the inequality and unfairness felt between church members must be forgotten and completely covered with love.

I hope that as a new year begins, we can cover all wounds, all pains, and all resentments with love.

What must we never forget?

1. We must not forget that knowing Christ is the priority in our lives

That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:10-11)

Paul wanted to know Christ more than anything else. Not just a simple surface level knowledge of Him but he wanted to know the resurrecting power of Jesus that gives life.

Our church wants the same. If the church is simply a place to teach and learn about Jesus then it is not fulfilling its true mission and purpose. Through worship you can experience the Holy Spirit, and through the Holy Spirit we can cast out the demons. These miracles are experienced in the church.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (Philippians 3:12)

Paul was not perfect and he did not have everything, but he knew that he wanted Jesus. Paul wanted his purpose to be aligned with the mission that God had given him.

I hope that we can become like Paul, people who want their whole purpose to be aligned with the work of Jesus Christ and who want their purpose to be God's purpose for them.

2. Do not forget your calling

Paul's calling from God was to be His mouthpiece for all people. For us, we all have different callings that God has placed on our hearts and it is with those callings that we are supposed to live out our faith.

What is the calling given to our church? God has given this church the responsibility to a blessing and a truth. This church is called to be a light for this world. That is why we are a missionary-focused church.

In order to live a life without regret, we need to live with a heart full of the mission and dream that God has given us. Do not let your last breath be one that says your life was empty or that you lived in vain. It is too late to change your life then, but it is not too late now.

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. (Acts 20:24)

Paul is testifying of the mission and grace that God has given him.

What is our mission? It is not to just eat and live well. If that is your purpose then your life will pass you by and you will look back with regret. Power, wealth, honor, and youth will all fade

away. The only thing that will stay eternal are the things above and the only person that will be eternal is our God.

That is why I hope we can keep focused on our calling toward God and live a life without regret, a life with purpose pointed toward Jesus Christ.

3. Do not forget the prize

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

We are running toward our goal because we know the ultimate prize. That prize is eternal life reserved for us in Heaven.

The Bible continually reminds us of the prize and the crown waiting for us in Heaven.

Everything in this world will one day fall apart and disappear. That is the truth of a temporary world. But the Bible tells us that what is in Heaven will be eternal and the prize waiting for us will never disappear.

We must not forget the prize that is waiting for us. It is because of this prize that we are able to press forward and continue on toward the goal.

4. Do not forget the grace of God

We must not forget His grace for us. He saved us, and gives us strength day by day to overcome the struggles and hurts of this world. Do not forget what He has done for us, and how good He has been to us.

My brothers and sisters,

We have things we must forget and things we should always remember. Let us cleanly and completely forget the things we must forget and bury the things we must remember deep within our hearts. I hope that Shining Star can become a church that remembers what God has done for us but forgets what He has forgiven us for.

Sharing Time_____

1. As we head into a new year, what are some things you must forget? Take some time to share.
2. What are some things that you must remember? Discuss with one another.
3. Share your prayer requests for this upcoming 2018 year, and end your Life Group praying for and worshipping with one another.