

Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. **1Corinthians 15:34**

Store In My Heart

1Peter 1:13

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

This is one of several statements by Peter that get to the heart of both his epistle and our needs as Christians. Peter tells his readers that they need to be ready to do what is necessary, they need to think clearly and with purpose about what they have been called to do for God. He also tells us that our focus must be on Jesus and how what He did for us on the cross blesses us with hope.

These are the things that will keep us in a right relationship with God and bring us into the eternal home of the faithful. Just three decades after the cross, Peter urges his brethren to keep the hope Jesus provided in His sacrifice in focus always. Looking to Jesus will help keep us faithful today.



Forgetting The Past

Edwin Crozier

If you have seen charts tracking the trends of the stock market, you have seen a picture of my spiritual life, filled with peaks and valleys. Sometimes you see major victories, marked by spiking spiritual highs. Sometimes you see dark defeats, marked by dire dips. Mostly you see days of slight progress and days of minor setbacks. I like to think that when you zoom out to see the big picture, the general trend is up.

This picture demonstrates one of the greatest obstacles I have to spiritual progress. **Philippians 3:13-14** provides the solution I must constantly apply to my life. *“But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal...”* (ESV). Too often I am so distracted by the peaks and valleys of where I have been, I forget I am going somewhere.

Sometimes I struggle because I cannot get my numerous failures out of my head. I can still remember the language I used in high school and the day I let one slip in front of my dad. I remember lies and lusts. I remember times I coveted. I remember cheating on a high school Spanish test. I remember times when my dating did not maintain a high standard of purity. I remember my freshman year of college and how low it was spiritually. What distracts me even more, however, are the recent times of sin – outbursts of anger, lust, periods of pride, and so much more.

Temptation and sin are constant struggles; as we grow, we fall. However, while we must not allow Christ’s grace to give us license to sin, we must allow Christ’s grace to turn our eyes away from our sins and back to the prize for which we strive.

While we must learn from our falls, that we may not repeat them, we must not so focus on them that the memory cripples us. We must forget what lies behind so we may press on for what lies ahead.

At the same time, I am not always distracted by my failings and sins. Sometimes I am too enamored with my victories and wins. I have sinned more than I wish to recount, but I have done some really good things too. I can think of sermons I have preached that were home runs. I think of the people with whom I have studied and baptized. I think of the times I have stood up in the face of persecution for the truth. I think of times I was tempted to lie and didn't. I think of times Satan played on hard and I escaped.

It is far too easy for me to be like the star high school quarterback who, twenty years later, is still enamored with the winning touchdown pass he threw in the state championship, wishing to recapture that day of glory but never doing anything else. When we are distracted by our past successes, we find it easy to rest upon them. We find it easy to think we have done enough. Sometimes we find it easy to believe we are good enough. God didn't ask us to grow only so far. He asked us to keep growing. Like trees by the streams of water (cf. **Psalms 1:3**), we either keep growing or we are dead.

We are pressing on for a prize. If we wish to attain it, we must in many ways forget where we have been so we may be free to focus on where are going.

"Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers meeting together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship."

— A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

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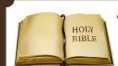
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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Ruben Keisler is doing well with his recovery.

Brenda Keisler is still dealing with neck and hip pain

Jim Soliday's heart has been in a more regular rhythm.

Sue Soliday has been feeling much better.

Vickie McNees is still dealing with severe migraines.

Amy Simpson is in Dallas for a work conference.

Pierce family from Conway – Daughter died during surgery from a burst aneurysm leaving husband & children behind.

Spears family from Hot Springs – 5-month-old daughter died.

Sunday Evening – **Nehemiah 11:25** Wednesday - **John 6:60**