



Week of October 21, 2018: Looking back to move ahead

Discussion Questions Set #1

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

“One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13-14)

1. Have you ever heard the call to “just forget your past” echoed in the teachings of the church?
2. How might the above verses be used to reinforce such ideas?
3. What problems might we encounter if we were to simply live by the idea of forgetting our past?
4. Have you ever been haunted by an experience from your past, even though you are fully committed to following Jesus? How have you dealt with such feelings of haunted-ness? How might a concerted “looking over our shoulder” be of help to us “moving forward”?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”, (Romans 12:1-2)

“Put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light ... clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:12,14).

1. Hebrews 12:1-2 is a good passage to actually envision. Imagine running a race while entangled in something or with an anchor attached around your waist. How would this effect your running of the race?
2. The writer to the Hebrews encourages us to “**throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles**”. What kinds of things act as hindrances to your running? What kinds of entangling sins do we often deal with?
3. The phrase “throw off” is rather emphatic. It doesn’t entail a gentle setting aside of hindrances, but an almost violent shedding of that which drags us down. Do you approach hindrances and entangling sin with such vigor? Why or why not?
4. It’s important to note that we are not only directed to throw off or put aside sinful hindrances, but that we are to fix our eyes on Jesus, be transformed, and clothe ourselves with the Lord. We ought to note the paired directives. Why do you think God encourages us to perform both actions? What might happen if we simply throw off hindrances, yet refuse to fix our eyes on Jesus? What might happen with we put aside deeds of darkness, but fail to clothe ourselves in Christ?

Discussion Questions Set #3

In my conclusion to the sermon, I indicated two actions that would be helpful for us to apply within our following of Jesus - prayer for an awareness of that which might hinder and the sin might easily entangle and the involving of others in the unravelling of our “grave clothes”.

1. Why is prayer for an awareness of such hindrances important? Why do you think that we are sometimes blind to such sin and hindrances?
2. Why do you think we are to involve others in the unravelling of our “grave clothes”? How do you feel about involving others in this sort of task? How might our H2H groups assist us in this task? What other venues might we have to involve others in this process?