FORGETTING THE PAST - A CHOICE

Philippians 3:13, “No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.”

Are you mentally and emotionally hindered by “skeletons” that may be in your closet from the past. The reality of most every life is this...there are things there that we wish were never there...but they are there nonetheless. If you take just a small glance at men in Scripture, they experienced “skeletons in their closet”.

No doubt David would loved to erase his affair with Bathsheba...but he could not. The only thing that he could do is seek the Lord’s forgiveness, and strive to walk in obedience the rest of his life.

Moses, no doubt would love to erase the fact that he killed a man...but the fact stands that he did...however, the one thing that he could do was to ask God’s forgiveness, forgive himself and walk on.

Paul could not erase the fact that he had held the cloak of Stephen that was executed, and also the fact that he had “written documents of execution” for believers in Damascus. Yet, God taught Paul a most wonderful lesson and divine truth that we need to learn and relearn again and again. Paul declared these words “forgetting the past”.

Paul learned the secret to a life of joy, tranquility and happiness...it was forgetting his past...because in the sight of God, the blood of Christ had washed him clean. The same is true about us, if we belong to Christ. God has completely forgiven you of “all your sin” past, present and future. No matter what may come up in your life, or when you may blow it...a wise believer learns to accept the forgiveness of God, and forget the past events of life.

We don’t have to forget the past- it is a matter of choice...however if we do not, we will always be paralyzed, and emotionally crippled by those failures that may have happened many years ago.

As you begin a new year...rest in the fact that God has forgiven you...and enjoy the freedom of His forgiveness...by forgetting the past failures and sins of your life...after all God didn’t forgive you by His Son’s death for you to remember them. Paul put away his past in order that he could be all God purposed for his life...that is God’s desire for us.