

Losin' the Luggage!
Spirit Life, Part 7
Slide Notations

So Far... Unshaken! Unafraid! On track! Rightly Connected! In Peace! Responsible for personal growth! *Ever wanted a new start/ "chance @ ring?"*

On the earth, we have a prize to obtain, a destination to arrive at, a goal set out before us that we run toward with all our might... And there's nothing on earth; man, event, circumstance, or demon powers that we can allow to keep us from obtaining our goal... Because each of us will give an account of things we did in the body; of what we did with the life and salvation that God gave us! 2Co5.10 R14.12 Mt12.36

Our Destination...

To be in the world but not of it! **J17.14-16** To be the friends of sinners w/o being engaged in their sins! **Lk7.34** To be seated in heavenly places safely above the turbulence of the earth! **E2.6** To be dead to worldliness, but alive in Christ, our new lives drenched in His faith! **Gal2.20** To be risen w/Him, searching for, having our hearts set on, the things above, not beneath! Our lives cloaked in Christ! **Col3.1-3** To be His glorious Church w/o spots/stains, w/o wrinkles, w/o blame **E5.27** A Church, with a soft heart **H3.13** established in peace **J14.27** living lives free of anxiety and stress **Lk 12.11,22** having the ear and counsel of our God and Father every waking moment **J11.42**. A church that speaks up with boldness **A4.13** knowing the mind, and having the love, of Christ **1C2.16** A church that stays fit and healthy by self-examination and correction **1C11.31** A glorious Church serving and giving like God **1T6.18** loving and self-sacrificing w/o being self-diminished **1C8.1-13, R14.13** living the life that is pleasing in the sight of God and of men. **Mt3.17 17.5 H13.16 A11.14,15** **We're not there yet... but this one thing we do, we forget the things behind and reach forward, pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling we have in Christ! Ph3.13,14**

With all that pressing toward the "mark" we have in Jesus... some things must get left behind! Like the burdens and bonds of the past!

Slipping the Bonds... This one thing I do, I forget the things behind... **Ph3** No man having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit; well-placed, useful, for the kingdom of God! **Lk9.62** In the time past we walked according to the course of the world and the lusts of men but now we are quickened w/Christ! **E2.2-5 1P4.3** By a new & living way let us draw near w/a true heart & full assurance **H10.20 ff**

Why the injunctions? Because the past puts flowers on the gravestones of dead experiences! Because "the past" doesn't believe in the move of God in the present or future! Because the past forgets the LIVING GOD, the walking-alongside-us GOD, the speaking-to-our-hearts-today GOD! It dims the Light of the World, who is lighting the way, today! Because the hours we spend living in the past keep us from living the vital moments of the present! *Good things keep us from better!* Be grateful and get better! *Bad things keep us from redemption!* **E5.16** "we will be going to them..." **GET IT OUT AND GO BIG!** Because the "past" is not profitable as a resting/nesting place!

Past is profitable... For deducing it's lessons! Joseph: What you meant for evil God meant for good; to save much people! **Gen 50.20** Peter: Necessary that Christ should suffer! **A3.18** For accounting God as ever faithful! "We have heard; our fathers have told us **Ps44** For remembering things forgotten in the heat of the battle! Do this in remembrance of Me! **Lk22.19** For the sake of ever-fresh gratitude! I thank Jesus Christ who has enabled me, counting me faithful, putting me in the ministry, who was before a

blasphemer, persecutor and violent abuser! **1T1.13ff** For strength, encouragement and focus, to properly “add-on” to a foundation set at so great a cost! Seeing we are encircled by so great a number of people willing to die for Jesus sake – let us run w/patience – looking at Jesus who endured it all... **H11/12**

The past is only profitable if it is limited to serve us as instructor... and prohibited from enslaving us as a master!

Jesus... Stands forever to represent people who don't have to struggle against past “luggage...” Only bad stuff we know was getting out of line – literally – when he was 12! **Lk2.42ff** Of course, God made Him who knew no sin to become sin for us all... **2C5.21** The Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all. **Is 53.6**

Paul... Represents the other side of salvation! “I am the descendant of descendants of the covenant of Jacob, the Prince with God, of the unswerving tribe of Benjamin, a King's namesake. In custom and language – a Hebrew of Hebrews. Regarding the laws of God, a generational Pharisee, “walking in the dust of Gamaliel.” Regarding passion, I persecuted the Church. Regarding the righteousness of the law, blameless. Also a businessman and free-born Roman citizen!” **Ph3.5 Acts 13.9 21.39, 22.3,28 23.6** And all my pedigree I count as detrimental to having the superior knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. It's all manure in light of winning Him! **Ph3.7,8**

Had the sterling past of arrogant religious pride, stifling social prejudices, and overheated passions... Was prosecutor/vigilante/murderer! **A8/9** Confessed: “I did many things contrary to the name of Jesus Christ!” **A26.9** Had to make decisions of whether or not to let the past stop... or further him!

This is not “then!” You are not who you used to be! The past cannot define or confine you... unless you let it! If you have ever wanted a chance at a new start! If you have ever yearned for a clear shot! Today is the day of your salvation!

If God so loved you He sent His Son while you were His enemy, how much more does He open the way to life for those who love Him and look for His coming?

To all... Who have been sickened by the past, “Rise up! Your sins are forgiven you!” **Lk5.23** Suffering from withered faith, “Rise up and stand in the midst of them...” **Lk6.8** Who want to run but are maimed, “In the name of Jesus, rise up and walk!” **A3.6** Who are religious enemies refusing new day, “Arise, and I will show you what's next!” **A9.6** Who have fallen and fallen asleep, “Arise and Christ will give you light!” **E4.14** Hear Jesus, “I do not condemn you, go and sin no more!” **J8.11** “There is therefore now no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus!” **R8.1** “You are quickened together w/Him having all your sins forgiven in Him; obliterating all record of the laws you broke! **Col 2.13** “If the Son sets you free, you are free through and through.” **J8.36**

It comes down to this... you can be confined in a prison of past mistakes, failures, sins and regrets – living a personal version of who you are (a per-version of the truth)... Or you can believe that God knew you from the beginning, saved you to be free, and marked you by the Spirit of God as proof of your life of freedom!