

# Reviewing Our Past

Acts 20:17-27

## Introduction:

- A. Paul looked in two directions in this speech to the Ephesians elders.
  - 1. Backward (vv. 18-21, 33-35).
  - 2. Forward (vv. 22-27).
- B. World looks in two direction at beginning of each new year.
  - 1. January named for Roman god, Janus who was pictures looking in two directions.
  - 2. Media reviews the past and tries to project the future.
- C. Reviewing the two principle aspects of our past lives can either be profitable or profitless.

## Discussion:

### I. When We Review Our past *Faults and Failures*.

- A. We *will* profit if:
  - 1. It reminds us of how thankful we should be for God's mercy. (1 Tim. 1:12-17).
  - 2. It reminds us of the power that sin had over us (Rom. 7:8-11).
- B. We *will not* profit if:
  - 1. If it makes us have fond memories of sinful life (Rom. 6:21).
  - 2. If it makes us forget God's forgiveness (Rev. 1:5,6; 1 Tim. 1:13; cf. 2 Cor. 2:7).

### II. When We Review Our past *Service to the Lord*.

- A. We *will* profit if:
  - 1. It makes us determined not lose what we have gained. (Heb. 10:32-39).
  - 2. It makes us thankful for what we have done in Christ (Acts 20:20, 26-27).
  - 3. It makes us determined to improve in the future. (Phil. 3:12-14).
- B. We *will not* profit if:
  - 1. We think we can coast now because of what we have done (Matt. 25:8, 13).
  - 2. We become self-righteous because of what we have done (Lk. 17:10).
  - 3. We compare what we have done with what others have done (2 Cor. 10:12).

## Conclusion: Let us take a good look at the past and answer these questions:

- A. Have my past sins been forgiven?
- B. Have I been faithful in the past, but no more? (Rev. 2:5).
- C. Am I thankful for all that I now have in Christ?
- D. Am I determined not to revert back to the old life of sin?