

## **Do Not Look Back Genesis 19:15-17**

Have you been hindered by thoughts of "what could have been?"

Some have been so overcome by dwelling on mistakes of the past that they have missed all of the present.

Each of us has a few things we might wish we had done differently

While we need to learn from past mistakes and our current life and attitudes are a result of what has already happened to us, we need to remember that we must not dwell on the past

### **Consider Jesus' Warning In Luke 17**

Begins in **vs 22** as He speaks of His return. The overall idea is "be ready."

Then He warns them to take immediate action - **Luke 17:28-33**

They were not to go back for anything.

Seeking to keep their life before the return would cause them to miss the new life that awaits

We need to heed this warning today

Lot's wife looked back at what she was leaving and in doing so lost all that she had. Behind was sin and sorrow; In front was life

Looking back saw children, possessions lost

Looking forward would see daughters, husband, and new chance at life

We cannot get distracted by "Why didn't I?" "What if I?"

There is a difference in learning from mistakes and dwelling on them.

**1Corinthians 6:11; 1Peter 1:14-16; 4:1-5**

### **We Need To "Press On"**

**Philippians 3:12-16**

Paul did not ignore his past, but he did not let it get between him and serving God.

He used mistakes to prompt more diligent service - **1Corinthians 15:9-11**

God's way has always been to urge His people forward - **Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 43:18-21**

Jesus taught the same - **Luke 9:57-62; Hebrews 12:1-3**

### **Leave The Past Behind**

I can't change what I did as a teenager.

I can't change how I raised my children.

I can't even change the decisions I made last week.

I can decide what I will do today.

I can live a proper example and teach my children now.

I can use knowledge and wisdom gained to make better decisions moving forward.

**2Peter 3:11-12, 14-15, 17-18**

DanHenderson