

MAIN POINT

Christ enables us to move beyond our past into a future of faithfully following Him.

INTRODUCTION

How often do you reflect on the ways that your past has shaped you?

Would you say you are someone who dwells on the past or is focused on the future?

Some of us are easily trapped in the past. We may feel stuck in the reality of something that we have done or has been done to us with little hope for the future. Others of us may seek to run from our past by focusing primarily on the future. The reality is that all of us have been shaped by our pasts in significant ways, whether we recognize it or not. Today, we will consider the reality that in Christ, we can acknowledge our past but move beyond it into a future of faithfully following Him.

DISCUSSION

> READ ROMANS 12:1-2, PROVERBS 24:16, 1 CORINTHIANS 13:11, 1 JOHN 1:9, HEBREWS 12:1-2.

Where do you currently feel stuck in old patterns of your life with no way to escape?

How is the transformation discussed in Romans 12 possible? Where do you currently feel in need of a renewed mind regarding your past?

How does Proverbs 24:16 encourage you regarding past failures?

What hope does Christ give regarding our past failures?

Where have you experienced hurt in the past? How does Christ speak into these wounded places in our lives? Where is He currently calling you to pursue forgiveness of another person? How will you respond?

How have you matured since coming to know Christ? What are some of the childish things you have put away in following Jesus?

What are some things you still need to put away as you seek to follow Jesus in the future?

What comfort does 1 John 1:9 give regarding the sins of our past? What hope does this give for freedom from current struggles with sin?

According to Hebrews 12, where is our ultimate hope for moving into the future in a new way?

How does the reality of being in Christ change the way you view your past and give you new hope for the future?

APPLICATION

What is one area of your past that God is calling you to face that you might be transformed by Christ and move into a new way of following Him in 2020? How will you respond?