

YOUR PAST IS NOT IN YOUR PAST

Ephesians 2:11-12 ... “Therefore remember that you...were without Christ...and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God...but now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

(I shortened the two verses above to make a point. Please read the entire passage in your own Bible if you desire the entire context.)

If you feel that the bad decisions you made in your past are over and you are free of their impact, you are wrong. Every decision – good or bad – you make throughout your lifetime has an effect on your future. You cannot simply brush-off a bad decision and claim that it is in your past; that decision stays with you and affects much of your life...for the rest of your life. Good decisions bless your future, just as bad decisions trouble your future.

Today’s scripture passage begins with “remember.” God allows you to remember your mistakes and to often pay for them over the course of your lifetime as a form of continuing education. They are the events that refine you and improve your character, behavior, and commitment to Christ. If you follow the Biblical formula of confessing your mistakes, repenting of them (never doing them again), and inviting God to perfect you, your mistakes will be forgiven and you will be free from the darkness they represent. However, they remain in your memory to remind you of the grace of God and the depth of his love for you.

If, however, your mistakes have become a dark cloud over your life and you feel they are dragging you down into a hopeless existence, then you have neglected the formula. It is not too late. You can still confess, repent, and ask forgiveness of any sin in your past no matter how long ago it occurred.

You should respect your past for what it represents. If your past is full of bad decisions, you can still reduce their effect, become a better person, and enjoy forgiveness even if you have to continue to pay the consequences of those decisions. An unwed pregnancy, drug addiction, criminal activity, and immorality can all lead to consequences you must live with for the rest of your life. But confession and repentance can make those sins profitable for spiritual renewal, even as you continue to pay for them. You can receive Christ as your savior and minister to others, even as you raise children without a father, are in rehab recovering from addiction, are in prison for crime, or live with disease from immoral activities. Although a life of sin is not what God desired for you, you are redeemable. Christ died for all. You can spend the rest of your life pleasing God, even as you experience the consequences of your sins.

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