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?