The Past

**Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.**

***(Isaiah 43:18)***

**Give no thought to what lies behind,**

**but push on to what lies ahead.**

***(Philippians 3:13)***

**The past is always tense, the future perfect. *(Zadie Smith, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**An arrow can only be shot by pulling it backward. When life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means it's going to launch you into something great, So just focus, and keep aiming. *(Submitted by Guideposts reader Tecla Barber)***

**There is a way to look at the past. Don’t hide from it. It will not catch you if you don’t repeat it. *(Pearl Bailey, singer/actress)***

**Better to look where you’re going than to see where you’ve been. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**He who believes that the past cannot be changed has not yet written his memoirs. *(Torvald Gahlin)***

**The only easy day was yesterday. *(Clint Black)***

**My mother always taught me never to look back in regret but to move on to the next thing. The amount of time people waste dwelling on failures rather than putting that energy into another project always amazes me. *(Richard Branson)***

**In the business world, the rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield. *(Warren Buffett)***

**The great arrogance of the present is to forget the intelligence of the past. *(Ken Burns, filmmaker)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Those who cannot remember the past will spend a lot of time looking for their cars in mall parking lots. (Jay Trachman, in One to One)**

**Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it without a sense of ironic futility. *(Errol Morris, filmmaker)***

**I know you can’t dwell in the past, but the rent sure was a lot cheaper. *(Jeff MacNelly, in Shoe comic strip)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see. *(Winston Churchill)***

**You can clutch the past so tightly to your chest that it leaves your arms too full to embrace the present. *(Jan Glidewell)***

**Dolly says to Billy: "Daddy knows where we've been by lookin' in the review mirror." *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Living in the past is for cowards. *(Mike Ditka, football coach)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Don't look back. You're not going that way. *(Submitted by Devon Gibbons)***

**Don’t trip over what’s behind you. *(Sign seen in New York City)***

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**The door to the past is a strange door. It swings open and things pass through it, but they pass in one direction only. No man can return across that threshold, though he can look down still and see the green light waver in the water weeds. *(Loren Eiseley, American anthropologist)***

**On the first day of school at Mountain Brook High School in Birmingham, Alabama, I asked my world-history students to write down the one era that they would like to visit if they could go back in time. I knew it was going to be a long year when I read one girl’s response: “If I could go back to any time in history, I would go back to the beach two years ago.” *(Tim Norris, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Be not the slave of your own past. Plunge into the sublime seas, dive deep and swim far, so you shall come back with self-respect, with new power, with an advanced experience that shall explain and overlook the old. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**Past experience should be a guide post, not a hitching post. *(D. W. Williams)***

**In the cabs of some farm tractors are closed-circuit TV cameras focused on the furrows behind. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The past is never dead – it is not even past. *(William Faulkner, American author)***

The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there. *(L. P. Hartley)*

**Customer: “Fill it up with regular, please.” Geech: These are the self-service pumps.” Customer: “Do I need to back up a little bit for full service?” Geech: “You need to back up about 20 years to find full service here.” *(Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

**Too many people keep looking forward to the good old days. *(Arnold H. Glasow)***

By going back in time, I could have the fun of meeting you all over again. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)*

**Though the past haunts me as a spirit, I do not ask to forget. *(Felicia Dorothea Browne Hemans)***

**The past is never where you think you left it. *(Katherine Anne Porter, writer)***

**Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose. *(Lyndon B. Johnson, U.S. President, in a 1963 speech)***

**When a man says he has a clear conscience, it often means he has a bad memory. Never let yesterday use up too much of today. What we learn from the past is that we seldom learn from the past. *(Bits & Pieces) 1115904***

**People love to feel superior to their past. *(Fran Lebowitz)***

**Let your past make you better, not bitter. *(via @ ThisInspiresUs on Twitter)***

**I tend to live in the past because most of my life is there. *(Herb Caen)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: Living in the past is lots of fun, besides, it’s cheaper. *(Reminisce magazine)***

**It’s not that I’m living in the past – in fact I haven’t even got that far yet. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**At senior-citizens meeting: “I may be living in the past – but I’m paying today’s prices.” *(Red O’Donnell, in Nashville Banner)***

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**May you look back on the past with as much pleasure as you look forward to the future. *(Quoted by (Paul Dickson, in Toasts)***

**The past is no row of bare facts waiting to be memorized by school children. Nor does it stand in our back yard like an old picket fence, slowly and silently rotting. The past is a real world, inhabited by villains and heroes and regular folk passing this way on swift journeys. Their story is our story -- the tie that binds each generation to all the others. *(Bill Moyers, from a speech)***

**Ziggy: “Nobody got where they are today by living in the past!” *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**The past is the only dead thing that smells sweet. *(Edward Thomas, poet)***

**The pain in the neck you complain about may be the result of looking backward. *(H. F. Henrichs, in Sunshine magazine)***

**One problem with gazing too frequently into the past is that we may turn around to find the future has run out on us. *(Michael Cibenko)***

**I like to revisit the past now and then, just to be sure it’s still there. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

**The apparent serenity of the past is an oil spread by time. *(Lloyd Frankenberg, in Invitation to Poetry)***

**The past should be a springboard, not a hammock. *(Ivern Ball)***

**When we look at the farthest visible star we are looking 4 billion years into the past -- the light from that star traveling at 186,000 miles a second, has taken that many years to reach us. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts)***

**Will you buy the contention that the telescope is a sort of time machine? Because you do indeed look back in time when you look at light images from outer space. Long ago sent, just now seen. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The past is always tense, the future perfect. *(Zadie Smith, author)***

**I think of the past as a little sister. I love her -- but she could benefit from a couple more showers. *(Alanis Morissette)***

**Friend: "If you had a time machine, would you go back in time or forward?" Heart: "Forward, I guess." Friend: "How come?" Heart: "I already did the past, and I wasn't impressed the first time." *(Mark Tutulli, in Heart of The City comic strip)***

**We are tomorrow's past. *(Mary Webb, in Precious Bane)***

**The past is always trickling under the soil, a slow leak you can’t trace. *(Hilary Mantel, author)***

**When we look out into the universe on a clear night, we are faced with a strange phenomenon. We are standing on the earth in this present moment, but we are viewing the universe in its past. Light travels at over 186,000 miles a second, so when we view the stars and galaxies “out there,” we are seeing them as they were in the distant past. Even the sun, which is relatively close, is not how we see it in space, because it takes the sun’s light over eight minutes to reach us. We see it how it was eight minutes ago. *(Eric Butterworth, in Unity magazine)***

**The universe is a very simple time machine. It doesn't involve any strange or complicated machinery, only immense distances. When we gaze into the depths of space, we are looking into the endless depths of time. Even traveling at 186,000 miles per second, starlight takes years to reach earth. Astronomers are cosmic archeologists, digging through the ruins of a previous universe. We see the star Alpha Centaur as it was just over four years ago. We see the Andromeda galaxy as it was more than two million years ago. Our days reside in the midst of a billion yesterdays. *(Don Lago, in Cosmic Search)***

**Somehow, there's something unnerving about a kid with a Daniel Boone haircut, a Mark Twain mustache and an Abe Lincoln beard telling us he is rejecting the past. *(Bugle)***

**What we learn from the past is that we seldom learn from the past. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**No man is rich enough to buy back his past. *(Oscar Wilde)***

**I wish I could go back to being what I know I never really was. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

**Yesterday's gone on down the river, and you can't get it back. *(Larry McMurtry, in Lonesome Dove)***

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