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)***

**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)***

**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)***

**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 are condemned to repeat it without a sense of ironic futility. *(Errol Morris, filmmaker)***

**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)***

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)*

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

**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)***

**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)***

**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)***

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

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*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)***

**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)***

**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)***

**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)***

**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)***

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

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