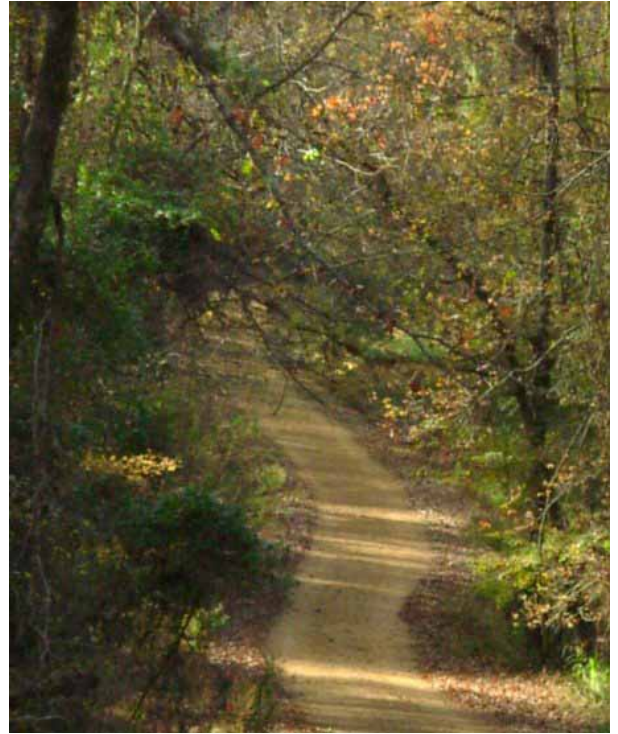


"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,"
Philippians 3:13



Memory and Hope are identical except for one small detail; the direction of their focus. Our society is inundated with poetry and song inspired by lost love and life which can never be replaced. Chasing a memory is like trying to carry water in a basket. All memories can do is sadden us. Even happy memories remind us of our present miserable state. Hope, on the other hand, is a memory of a future promise. The only memory we are supposed to hold dear is the memory of Hope secured. We are to break the bread and drink of the wine of the new covenant in “remembrance” of Our Redeemer’s finished work on Calvary to reinforce our memory of His promise to return and gather us unto Himself and Home. We are to “*reach forth*” not “reach back.” The past will not gladden our heart. It will destroy our Joy. We are to forget the past and press towards the future mark of the Resurrection of Life; the glorious return of the KING! He has promised and we have a lively hope in that promise, because He reinforced it by dealing a fatal blow to our mortal enemy, Death! The past is irretrievable. The present is a vapor. Our future is secure in the unchanging, immutable, Word of God. Why would we want to dwell in the sorrowful and maudlin memories of the forever past when we can hope in the forever future? Your present tribulation, dear believer, is as transient as a wisp of smoke in a high wind. You will dwell in blessed bliss forever in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Jesus endured the most heinous and blasphemous death in history “*for the Joy that was set before Him.*” Our Joy is His dear Spirit and Voice in this life and the anticipation of His beautiful countenance in the next. What a wonder it will be to stand in the presence of the omnipotent Creator, and experience the brightness of His Face and the thunder of His Voice! Reach forth!

Memory fades into the past,
Only Hope in Jesus will last,
If we our care on Him will cast,
We’ll dwell with Him on High at last! ~CGP

Forget the past and remember the future that God has promised to all who love Him.

"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"
Philippians 3:8-10