



# Newsletter

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- Up Words # 51

## LOOKING FORWARD



Only a few more hours remain in 2013 and then a new year. We will hang new calendars in our kitchens and open new covers on our diaries, journals or Day-Timers. Indeed this is the opening day of new beginnings and fresh starts .... anticipation and expectations are high! So where will we begin? I'd suggest that we begin by looking forward.

Hebrews 12:1 reminds us that we are to run the race that is set before us. If we're not careful we might be tempted to try running the race that is behind us. Though we can imagine the awkwardness of running backwards, some might try. Some might even try really hard and become sort of good at running backward, but really, what's the point? The reality is that we sometimes struggle to leave the past alone. We can fret over failures or focus on past victories, but is that really good for us?

I'm reminded of a time when I was rabbit hunting and had the unusual opportunity of coming upon an owl. I'd occasionally seen owls in the woods before, but this was different. This owl was on a log near the ground and only about five feet in front of me. I stopped and marveled at this wonderful creature and as I did his head suddenly turned completely around and he looked at me. He then turned and gracefully flew away.

It's truly amazing that God made owls with the ability to easily turn their head completely around and see what's behind them, but God didn't make us that way. It is hard to move forward while looking back. Even an owl can't fly backwards. God made us to look ahead, not behind. God wants us to move forward and not keep looking back.

Though a very godly man, the Apostle Paul knew that he had not arrived to the place of fully knowing or understanding his Savior and God's goals for his life. He was, however, committed to moving forward and therefore writes with resolve, "but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13b-14). Like Paul, let's look forward in 2014.

Looking Up,  
Pastor Chuck Circle