



YOUR
PAST

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RUNNING FROM YOUR PAST



- Numbers 32:23 points out that sin always catches up to us. No matter how clever we are or how well we cover our tracks, at the very least God always knows (Ecc. 12:14).
- Instead of facing our mistakes, we try to run from them. We use tricky, evasive language, keep things vague, fabricate justification, and attempt to overcompensate. One wonders what was going through Moses' head when he ran away (Ex. 2:11-15).

RUNNING FROM YOUR PAST



- Given the incredible damage he had done, it's not surprising that Saul of Tarsus was met with skepticism and fear (Acts 9:26). His own humility, coupled with the boldness of Barnabas, made it possible for him to become a source of joy in the church (Acts 9:27-28, 11:24-26, Gal. 1:22-24).


RUNNING FROM YOUR PAST



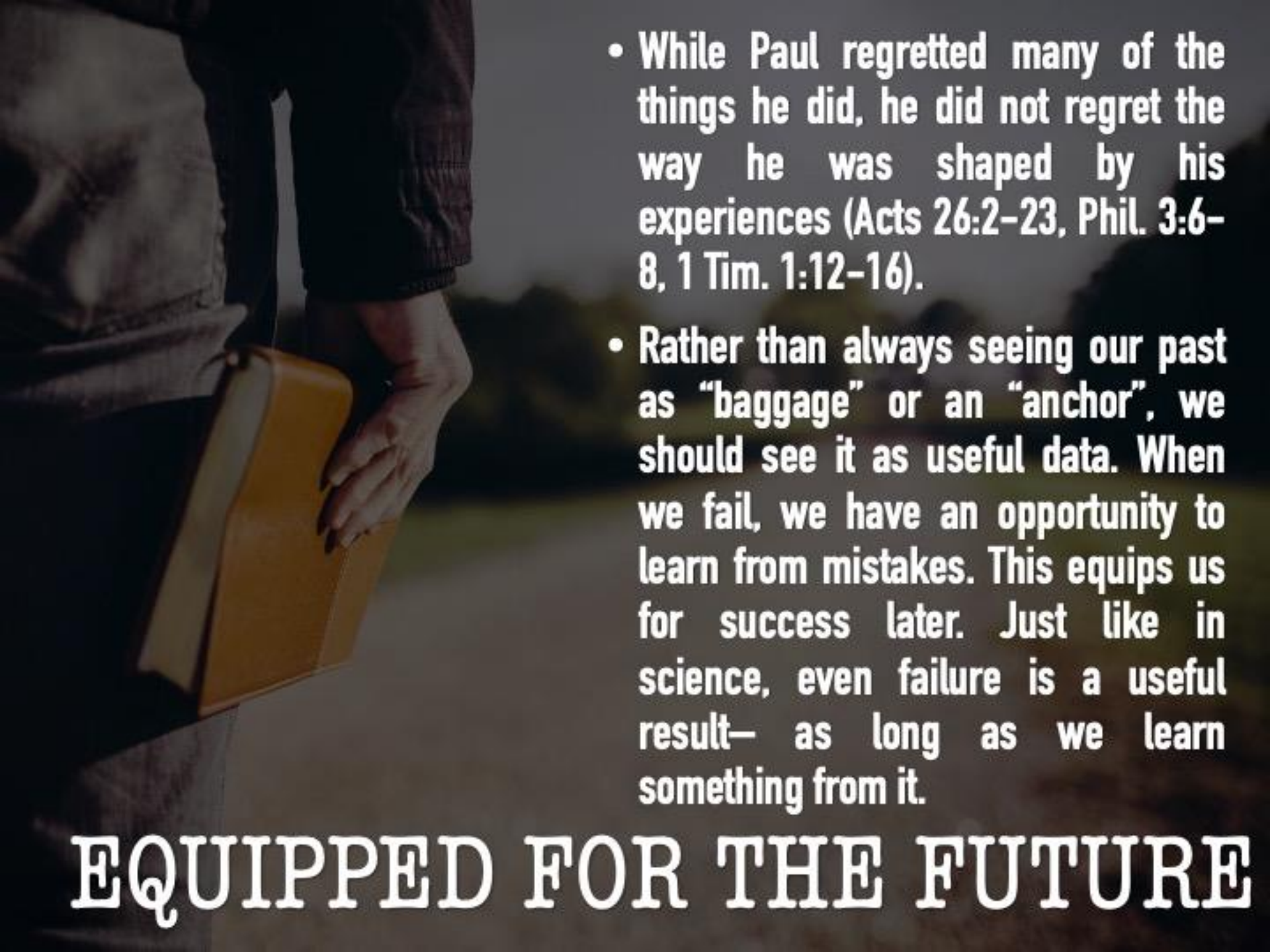
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- **The past is what it is. Nobody else will learn to get over your mistakes until you do. Turn around and face them!**

RUNNING FROM YOUR PAST



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- A person wearing a dark jacket is shown from the side, holding a bright yellow folder or book. They are standing on a paved path that leads into a grassy area with trees in the background. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting an overcast day or dusk.
- While Paul regretted many of the things he did, he did not regret the way he was shaped by his experiences (Acts 26:2-23, Phil. 3:6-8, 1 Tim. 1:12-16).

EQUIPPED FOR THE FUTURE

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- While Paul regretted many of the things he did, he did not regret the way he was shaped by his experiences (Acts 26:2-23, Phil. 3:6-8, 1 Tim. 1:12-16).
 - Rather than always seeing our past as “baggage” or an “anchor”, we should see it as useful data. When we fail, we have an opportunity to learn from mistakes. This equips us for success later. Just like in science, even failure is a useful result— as long as we learn something from it.

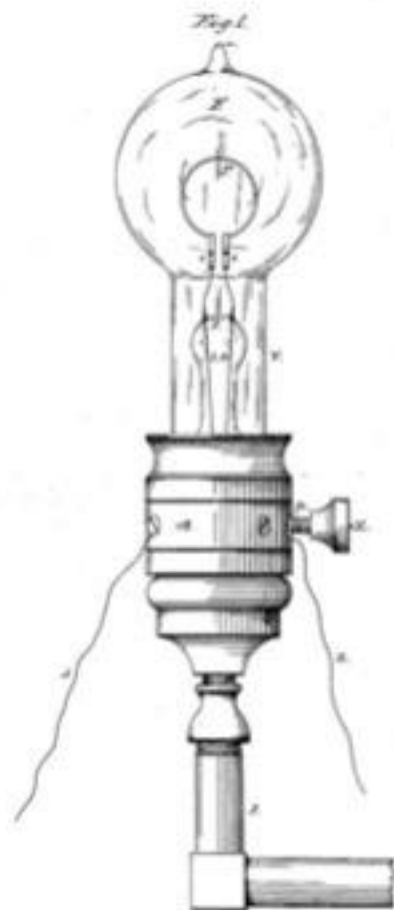
EQUIPPED FOR THE FUTURE

T. A. EDISON.

ELECTRIC LAMP AND HOLDER FOR THE SAME.

No. 265,311.

Patented Oct. 3, 1882.



Attest
 W. H. Howard
 James W. Rogers


Inventor:
 T. A. Edison
 Dyer & Wilson
 his attys

"I speak without exaggeration when I say that I have constructed three thousand different theories in connection with the electric light, each one of them reasonable and apparently to be true. Yet only in two cases did my experiments prove the truth of my theory. My chief difficulty, as perhaps you know, was in constructing the carbon filament, the incandescence of which is the source of the light. Every quarter of the globe was ransacked by my agents, and all sorts of the queerest materials were used, until finally the shred of bamboo now utilized was settled upon. Even now,' Mr. Edison continued, 'I am still at work nearly every day on the lamp.'" Thomas Edison, *Harper's Monthly Magazine*


PAST AS TEACHER




Don't assume that only your own mistakes can teach you anything. Ideally, we won't ever have to learn from a bad past if we just heed the warnings from a gallery of bad examples (1 Cor. 10:6, 11).

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- A person is shown from the side, holding a bright yellow folder or book. They are standing on a paved path that leads into a blurred, green landscape. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a dark overlay on the right side where the text is located.
- The past is not always seen in a negative light. For some people, the past is full of their best days, their accomplishments, their youth and vigor — in a word, their glory.

YOUR GLORY DAYS

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 - In a sense, any infatuation with the past (whether regret or longing) leaves us twisted and unhappy. Notice Ecclesiastes 7:10.
 - The elderly in Jerusalem had a hard time appreciating their progress because the new temple was more modest than the first (Ezra 3:11–13).

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