

1 Facebook Nostalgia

2 FACEBOOK

- What used to be a place for 20-somethings to focus on mundane details of the present, such as the lingering effects of last night's party or pointless pictures of one's lunch, has more and more become a place to reminisce about the routine aspects of the past.
- Perhaps you've noticed that one game in particular is popular among the over-50 Facebook crowd.
- It's called, "'Like' if you know what this is," and the premise is simple.
 - A user posts a photo of something that was once very common but is now ... not so much.
 - If you know what it is, you select the "Like" button or make a "Comment."

3 Nostalgia

- Nostalgia plays an important role in our lives, especially as we move forward and grow older.
 - It not only helps us remember fondly some forgotten details of the past,
 - but more importantly it binds us all together under the reality of pervasive and persistent change.
- The key issue in all of this is that no one's world stays the same and the world does not resemble what it once was.
- But as we honor the past—especially with those who are our peers and friends . . .
 - our insecurities are diminished, and
 - we see that much of our life has been truly blessed.

4 Memory Lane

5 Memory Lane

6 Memory Lane

7 Nostalgia & Faith

- A little bit of nostalgia can be helpful in our lives of faith as well.
- As disciples of Christ, we're used to lives of sweeping changes. Paul, in 2 Corinthians, reminds us of the pervasive, all-encompassing changes that come with following Christ when he writes,
 - "... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV).
- Once we're connected to the life-giving love of Jesus Christ, we cease to resemble what we once were.
- Yet even the incredible changes of our new lives in Christ can become routine over time and as a result lose a bit of its luster.

- It's good for us to reminisce about how far we've come in Christ. Why?
- So that we might recognize yet again just how blessed we are.

8 Where We've Been

- Let's play a quick little game to see how much we can recall about our lives before we moved from being self-centered to Christ-centered.
- That is, let's take a look at where we've been, where we were before we began to follow Jesus in a conscious and intentional way.

9 Where We've Been

- First, remember what it was like to live with the haunting sense of guilt and shame?
 - The feelings you felt for hurting and disappointing others, and
 - The feelings you felt for harboring bitterness and resentment when others hurt and disappointed you?
 - Do you remember how you had little peace and contentment?
 - And how you had to depend on sensual pleasures to give you a lift?
 - While we could fake we were happy, we knew it was a lie.
 - Much of our time was spent blaming others and our circumstance—thinking if we could only change them we would be happy and content.

10 Where We've Been

- Do you remember what it was like to constantly rationalize your reckless choices as a way to deal with the regret over those reckless choices? Remember that?

11 Where We've Been

- At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. (Titus 3:3 NIV)
- As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. (Eph 2:1-3 NIV)

12 Thank God!

- Thank God . . .
 - those days are done.
 - there's grace in Jesus Christ.
 - in the words of Paul, through Christ he “reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:18, ESV).

13 What About Death?

- Believe it or not, the vast majority of this world is running around still spending most of their energy and effort trying to stay young and avoid the inevitable.
- Diving whole hog into the latest health fads, hoping it will buy us a few more years, or taking a big hit on the credit card because, “Hey we only live once and after that, who knows!”
- That's how many of us used to live.
- But when we met Jesus and got serious about our faith, it put everything in perspective.
- The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:17 NIV)
- So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Cor 4:18 NIV)

14 Given Us Purpose

- Man’s purpose is not to live for himself, but to serve God and bring Him glory. (1 Peter 4:11)
- In doing so there is much joy, peace, and love that transcends all understanding.
- So when you “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matt 22:37–39 NIV), you will bring glory to God.
- How? Because your faith will get the attention of heaven and God in faithfulness will show forth His goodness and grace by fulfilling His promises to those who believe.
- This is our purpose—showing forth the faithfulness and power that God gives to those who carry out the Words of His Son Jesus Christ and in so doing provide evidence for others to believe and put their trust in the living God.

15 Not Bring God Glory

- What is happening when God is seemingly not answering our prayers?
 - We are not fulfilling or obeying His Word as we should. (If God should make exceptions He wouldn’t be faithful to His word.)
 - We know God’s will and don’t do it.
 - We misunderstand God’s will and do something that misses the mark.
 - Like Job, there is something going on behind the scenes that we’re not aware of. (God may be bragging about our faith and Satan is wanting to prove God wrong.)
 - What we’re asking in prayer is not in accordance with His will. (If God should give us a brand new Mercedes-Benz, it could make us proud and corrupt our faith.)

16 My Testimony

- Before I trusted Christ and put Him first in my life.
 - I was a very moody person. (If things weren't going well at school, work, or elsewhere, I was upset, angry, and a very grumpy person.)
 - I took out my frustration by complaining and blaming others. (Somehow, I thought people were to serve me.)
 - But when faith came and I asked God to forgive me for ignoring Him, I was shocked at what happened.
 - I found joy!
 - I found a love for God's Word!
 - I found a purpose in life that wasn't held hostage to my temporal circumstances.

17 My Testimony

- While my walk with God hasn't been void of trials and tribulations, I've come to being confident of this,
 - that he who began a good work in [me] will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil 1:6 NIV)
- Therefore,
 - I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. (Phil 3:12 NIV)
 - I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:14 NIV)

18 The Highway of Life

19 Memorials

- When Joshua led the people of Israel cross the Jordan, the Lord commanded him to make an memorial out of the stones for each tribe.
- The purpose of these stones was to be sign for future generations.
- “. . . tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. . . . These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” (Josh 4:7 NIV)
- Memorials exist to remind us of someone that has lived, so that we may continue to honor them and be inspired by their memory.
- So as we remember the acts of the Lord in our life (or even someone else's life), we can be strengthened and inspired to keep pressing on and finishing the race marked out for us.
- In fact, our lives can do the same thing. Our lives can be a source of inspiration not only for those around us, but for future generations.

20 Memorial