

Old Lang Syne

(Auld Land Syne)

Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And old lang syne?

This is the first verse of a poem written in 1788 by the Scottish poet, Robert Burns.

“*Old Lang Syne*” translates to English as “*Old Long Ago*”. Mr. Burns is raising the question, “*Should we forget the past and our past relationships?*” Truly our past is behind us. We are busy with the work God has given us to do. Time and space have certainly separated us from some of our old friends. This can be a good thing! If those “*friends*” were bad for us, we should be separated from them! Sometimes, however, we are separated from good friends that have helped us, gave us the encouragement we needed to move forward, and were there for us in tough times. We were there for them too! Then there came a time when God opened doors for us to do His work in new places. We realized we must move on to the next chapter in our lives where we met new people and built new relationships. Though we are busy with the work at hand, it is good to stop and spend a moment with a good friend from the past and remember the “*Old Long Ago*”!

Paul, in **Philippians 3:13** said, “...*but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*” In the text he was explaining that no amount of past accomplishments or achievements make us worthy of salvation. We must forget about those things and “*press toward the mark*”. However, it is good to occasionally think about “*Old Lang Syne*”, touch base with an old acquaintance, and remember where we came from, if these things will encourage us to become better in our service to God today!

David Conley