Hebrews 11:15-16 *(NIV) If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. [16] Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. (NIV)*

Philippians 3:13-14 *(NLT) ...I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, [14] I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

****Instead of doubting and wondering what God had gotten them into they kept on focusing on God's promises. They pursued God above everything else. They did not try to return to their old way of life or their former home. Because they kept on trusting and pursuing God, He was proud to be called their God. Like Abraham Paul could have looked backed but chose to pursue his relationship with Jesus Christ rather than anything in his past.

PRAYER: Lord, please keep me from looking back with either pride and longing, or shame and horror, at my past. Help me to focus on You. Help me to pursue You and Your promises with all my strength. Lord, I don't ever want to bring shame to You in anyway. I want for You to be proud that I call You MY GOD. I want to be known for the fact that I belong to You, and that You are MY GOD.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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