

A Time To Resolve

Introduction:

- A. At the start of every year many people make what they call "New Years Resolutions".
- B. The word 'resolution' means carries to some degree the idea of solving a problem.
- C. This morning I want us to focus in on some of the resolutions people make and see how these might be equally profitable for us in striving to be the kind of person God wants us to be.

I. Lose Weight.

- A. This is perhaps one of the most common resolutions.
 - 1. People feel they have more weight on their body than they should have.
- B. As God's children we also need to resolve to loose weight – Heb.12:1.
 - 1. Notice the distinction made here between every weight and sin.
 - a. Certainly sin will slow us down or even stop us in this race so the Christian must lay aside sin.
 - b. But he also tells us to lay aside some things which aren't wrong in and of themselves because they simply slow us down in the race.
 - 2. EXAMPLES of what can hinder us: friends and loved ones; jobs; recreational activities.
- C. Resolve now to put aside every activity or affection which slows our progress as a child of God.

II. Pay Off Debts.

- A. As each year ends we must gather together all our financial records so we can pay taxes.
- B. As God's children we also have certain debts which we need to pay off to our Heavenly Father.
 - 1. **We Owe God Our LIFE.**
 - a. Since God has saved us from eternal death, we should feel indebted to give Him our life.
 - b. Rom.6:4,11-13– We are to be alive unto God in Christ Jesus.
 - 2. **We Owe God Our LOVE.**
 - a. Jn.3:16– Because of the love God had for us, He gave His Son so we could have spiritual life.
 - 1) 1 Jn.4:19– *"We love, because he first loved us."*
 - b. Matt.22:37– *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."*
 - c. We owe God our sincere love; expressed by putting Him first in our lives (Matt.6:33), obeying His every will (1 Jn.5:3) and having love for others (1 Jn.4:10,11).
 - 3. **We Owe God Our TIME.**
 - a. The Lord demands several things of us which will require our time:
 - 1) We are to serve Him daily– Lk.9:23.
 - 2) We are to teach others, which takes time– Matt.28:18,19.
 - 3) We are to pray to our Heavenly Father.
 - 4) We are to worship our God– Jn.4:22-24.
 - b. Truly we owe our God our time.
 - 4. **We Owe God Our MONEY.**
 - a. For all He has given us, we should be happy to give part of it back.
 - b. 1 Cor.16:1,2; 2 Cor.9:6– Based on how prospered and how planned to give in our heart.
- C. As we begin this new year let us resolve to pay our spiritual debts to our Heavenly Father.

III. Be More Productive.

- A. Parents, people in the business world or even students will often resolve to be more productive.
- B. Christians likewise need to resolve to be more productive for the Lord.
 - 1. Jn.15:1-8--The Parable of the Vine & Branches.
 - 2. Resolve to: study the Bible; encourage the brethren; do more to teach the lost of Christ.
- C. We all need to resolve to be even more productive in the new year.

IV. Do Something Never Done Before.

- A. For example: starting a new business, buying a house or car, flying in an airplane, jumping out of an airplane, hang gliding, etc...
 - 1. Setting out to do something we've never done before will help us grow in our abilities and talents.
- B. Christians should also strive to do things which they have never done before.
 - 1. Matt.25:14-30– The Parable of the Talents should teach us of the Lords desire for us to increase in the talents which He has given us.
 - 2. Teaching a Bible class, leading a public prayer or the singing or presenting a short sermon.
- C. Christians should certainly resolve to do some things which they may never have done before.

V. Spend More Time With The Family.

- A. A Parent will often realize the need to spend more time with the family.
 - 1. We resolve to spend more time with the ones we love most.
- B. As Christians we often don't spend the time together as we should.
 - 1. 2 Cor.6:17,18– Jehovah is our Father and we are sons and daughters to Him.
 - 2. Jn.3:1-6– We enter the family of God through a new birth (Spirit and Water).
 - 3. Since we are brothers and sisters we should desire to be together as much as possible.
 - a. It should be our desire to assemble for worship with our spiritual family as often as possible.
 - 1) Thus, a resolution to attend ALL services of the church.
 - b. It should also cause us to desire to be together at times during the week.
 - 1) Entertainment which involves other people should involve brethren, when problems arise we should lean on our brethren, etc...
- C. We need to resolve to spend more time with our spiritual family.

VI. Stop Putting Things Off So Much.

- A. Procrastination is the enemy of progress.
- B. We also need to resolve to stop putting off things of spiritual importance.
 - 1. Eph.5:15,16– We are to redeem the time (make the best use of it).
 - 2. What kind of things do brethren often put off?
 - a. Talking with the lost about their soul.
 - 1) We must resolve to take advantage of every opportunity to teach that comes along.
 - b. Visiting the sick among our spiritual family.
 - 1) We must resolve to make contact with every brother or sister who is ill so when they are well they will again want to be an active part of the local congregation.
 - c. Encouraging the spiritually weak.
 - 1) We must resolve to do as much as we can as soon as we can when we see a brother or sister becoming weak spiritually.
 - d. Preparing for bible classes.
 - 1) We need to resolve to stop putting off preparing for the Bible classes since proper preparation will help us all to learn more.
- C. We need to resolve to stop putting off till tomorrow what should have done yesterday.

Conclusion:

- A. Since this is the start of a new year it is a good time to resolve to do some things better for the Lord than we have been doing in the past.
- B. But surely we should understand that at the start of each DAY is a good time to resolve to do better than we did in the previous day.