

## STICKING WITH RESOLUTIONS

Michael Pickford

According to some statistics, people in their twenties are almost three times as likely to keep their resolutions than those over the age of fifty. Or could it be that among those asked, the ones over fifty were more honest about breaking their resolutions? Either way, we sometimes find ourselves needing to strengthen our commitment to the Lord. We should not wait until the first of the year to do so, but once we do make resolutions of a spiritual nature, it's essential that we keep them. Here are some suggestions on how to succeed.

- (1) Keep your eternal reward in mind for faithfulness (Revelation 2:10).
- (2) Pray to God for strength through


Christ (Philippians 4:13).

(3) Don't allow set-backs or slip-ups to equal failure. Allow those discouraged feelings (that we all hate) to motivate you to do better.

(4) Seek encouragement from your brethren (Hebrews 3:12-13).

(5) Remember the eternal punishment for spiritual failure (Hebrews 10:26-27).

(6) Don't be proud or puffed up over your spiritual successes, but humbly thank God for each accomplishment (Luke 18:11-12; 1 Corinthians 10:12).

*"Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and he shall bring it to pass"* (Psalm 37:5). 

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry  
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

*"They...searched the scriptures daily..."* –Acts 17:11

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## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS


Michael Pickford

At the first of the year many people choose to do something that will positively affect their lives by cleaning out something bad. Perhaps there some cleaning out we need to do in our own lives.

**HEART.** Our heart often determines our actions. Jesus said "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness" (Mark 7:21-22). No wonder the Lord said "Blessed are the pure in heart..." (Matthew 5:8). We overcome wicked thoughts by taking control of our thoughts. We should take captive every one of our thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5). We do this, not by trying intentionally to not think about bad things, but by busying our minds with good thoughts so the bad thoughts have no room to grow and ultimately manifest themselves in evil ways. Meditate on pure things (Philippians 4:8).

**HOME.** There are many who need to do some house cleaning. I'm not speaking of picking up debris, dusting, or straightening out furniture. I'm speaking of purging out bitterness and

unkind ways towards our spouses, children, and parents. Many family woes can be solved through the application of one verse, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). We may also need to eliminate some unsavory TV programs, movies, music, and video games. David said "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set nothing wicked before my eyes..." (Psalm 101:2-3).

**HABITS.** Two of the most popular New Year's resolutions are to quit smoking, and lose weight. Both of these affect the wellness of our bodies, and both involve great self control. While applied to fornication in the context, an universal truth is disclosed in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 where Paul wrote, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." Self control is part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Peter includes self control as one of the attributes that must be added to our faith (2 Peter 1:5-11). 

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

## COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

## RESOLUTIONS

Michael Pickford

This is the time of year when people in the world begin to make several different resolutions in their lives. Many of these are for the purpose of bettering themselves in some way. Some resolve to quit smoking, or drinking, or to lose some weight. To resolve to do something is to make a firm decision and commitment to accomplish it. It's interesting to hear people boast of their resolutions, and then watch as they break them in a few days or weeks.

I want to suggest to you that when one becomes a Christian, he makes many resolutions himself. I will give a quick, non-exhaustive list here of things that we should all resolve to do. Maybe you'll find some of these lacking in your life. If so, resolve to do them beginning now.

- Study God's word daily (Acts 17:11)
- Pray regularly (1 Thess. 5:17)
- Be faithful to God (Rev. 2:10)
- Attend all scheduled services faithfully (Heb. 10:25)
- Be hospitable (Rom 12:13)
- Forgive others (Eph 4:32)
- Love your enemies (Matt. 5:44)
- Contribute more (2 Cor. 9:6,7)
- Share your faith with others (Heb. 5:12)
- Be more charitable (Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 20:35)
- Be more encouraging to your brethren (Hebrews 3:12-13)
- Rejoice more (Philippians 4:4)
- And especially, if you're not yet a Christian...Obey the Gospel! (Heb. 5:8,9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

Have you made your resolutions?

"Cast your burden on the Lord,  
And He shall sustain you."  
"Cast your burden on the Lord,  
And He shall sustain you."

-Psalm 55:22

## SERMON NOTES

*Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.*

**STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11**

### God's Revelation

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell  
Reading: Isaiah 55:8-11
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Ben Reagh

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Invitation.....Ben Reagh

**Thank You For Serving!**

#### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;  
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

***Obey Today!***

***Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!***