


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). 

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

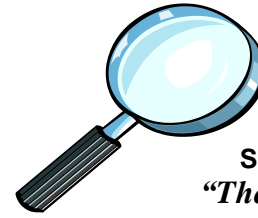
- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

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



- www.defendthegospel.com
- 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



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“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). 

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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

SETTING GOALS IN THE NEW YEAR

Michael Pickford

Once again God has blessed us with the beginning of a new year. This is a time when many evaluate their lives and try to set new goals to better themselves. Let me suggest some things we might need to do to better ourselves in this new year.

1) Pray With Persistence: Persistent prayer is an essential part of the life of a child of God. Paul said to "Pray without ceasing," yet many cease without praying (1 Thess. 5:17). The Lord said "that men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). He then told the story of the widow who finally got what she was after because of her persistence. How is your prayer life?

2) Study The Scriptures: Long ago, God said through Hosea "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). A lack of knowledge of God's word continues to destroy today. Don't remain ignorant of God's writings. Search the scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Our society has created many diversions in the form of entertainment, employment, etc. which take up too much of our precious time. Find time to pray and study the word of the Lord!

3) Run The Race: Too many have fallen out of the race and become unfaithful to the Lord. Remember, it is only he who remains faithful until death who will receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10). Be like Paul, and finish on top (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

What will you do in this new year? ☞

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd
Reading: Jeremiah 6:16-19
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....John Nelson
Serve.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

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!*