

KEEP YOUR RESOLUTION!

Michael Pickford

It's always interesting at the beginning of the year to hear folks speak excitedly about the New Year's Resolutions they have made only to see them break them in only a matter of weeks, sometimes days. Me? Guilty!

Depending upon your resolution, perhaps there are no eternal consequences involved in falling to weakness. But there is one resolution we must never break – our resolution to serve the Lord!

When we obey the Gospel, we have dedicated our lives to serving the Lord. We have resolved to be His faithful servant until we die or until He returns, whichever comes first (Revelation 2:

10).

It's always exciting to observe new Christians. Their zeal is unparalleled. There excitement is contagious and many of us find ourselves encouraged and ready to find new zest in our own service to the Lord. But by and by, this zeal often diminishes, and sometimes dies altogether. How sad. How tragic!

It takes great sacrifice and work to keep this zeal alive. But we must do it in order to keep from neglecting our salvation (Hebrews 2:1-2). *“For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end”* (Hebrews 3:14). Keep your resolution!

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



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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NEW THINGS

Michael Pickford

We get excited about new things: A new car, a new house, new clothes, etc. Today, we're excited about entering into a new year. The Bible has something to say about some new things. These should cause us more excitement than anything...

A New Creation. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). But how does one get into Christ? *“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ”* (Galatians 3:27; see also Romans 6:3). When one hears the Gospel (Romans 10:17), believes in Jesus as God's Son (John 8:24), repents of his sins (Acts 2:38), and confesses his faith (Romans 10:9-10), he is ready to be baptized into Christ and become a new creation. The old man of sin must be put to death as the new man in Christ lives in holiness and righteousness with a hope of eternal life (Romans 6:6-14, 22).

A New Covenant. The Bible also speaks of a new covenant as opposed to the Old covenant (Old Testament). *“In that He says ‘A new covenant’ He has made the first obsolete...”* (Hebrews 8:13). A casual reading of the context (Hebrews 8:7-12) will show that the Old covenant that has

become obsolete is the Law of Moses. The Old Testament is still profitable to us in many ways, including being there for us to learn from the examples of obedience and disobedience of those who lived under it. The lessons we learn are: Obey God, be blessed; disobey God, be cursed (1 Corinthians 10:11). But insofar as religious authority for our beliefs and practices, the Old Testament has become obsolete; we are to abide in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9; Colossians 3:17).

A New Commandment. Jesus said *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another...”* (John 13:34). God had commanded love towards one another in the Old Testament, so why does He call this a *“New Commandment?”* It would seem new to the Jews living in His day because for all practical purposes they had removed the concept of love from God's law. Their service to God was purely ritualistic, mechanical service. They served God strictly out of a response to a command rather than out of true love for Him and their fellow man. Not so in Christ! If we will love God and man as we should, all His commandments for us will just naturally fall into place (Romans 13:10; 1 John 5:3). ☞

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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

EVERYONE WELCOME!

IN THIS NEW YEAR

Michael Pickford

Set Goals

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*? ☞

Resolutions

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 making themselves better 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 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)
- And especially, if you’re not yet a Christian...Obey the Gospel! (Heb. 5:8,9)

Have you made your resolutions? ☞

SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

A New Creation

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Ben Reagh
Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:12-17
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Robert Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*

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; Acts 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!