

Resolutions

Intro: With the coming of the New Year many people make resolutions concerning their lives. Today let us notice some resolutions about our lives in Christ.

I. IT TAKES SELF-EXAMINATION

A. 2 Cor. 13:5 ⁴⁵ Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

B. It must be by the correct standard.

1. John 7:24 ⁴²⁴ Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."
2. Some things that are not the standard.
 - a. Others
 - b. Government
 - c. Self
3. The Scriptures are the standard.
 - a. John 12:48 ⁴⁴⁸ He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."
 - b. Rev. 20:12 ⁴¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."
 - c. Rom. 2:16 ⁴¹⁶ In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."

C. We must realize:

1. Where we have fallen short and be willing to correct it.
2. We must realize where we have done well and continue to improve.

II. SOME IMPROVEMENTS WE ALL NEED.

A. Attend every service

1. Acts 2:42 ⁴⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."
2. It is a command; 1 Cor. 11:20 ⁴²⁰ When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper."
3. So we can glorify and praise God.
 - a. Psa. 22:22 ⁴²² I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee."
 - b. Psa. 29:2 ⁴² Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

B. Greater Bible knowledge.

1. Stronger faith
 - a. Rom. 10:17 ⁴¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
 - b. Luke 17:5 ⁴⁵ And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith."
2. Better attitudes
 - a. Demonstrate brotherly love.
 - (1) John 13:34-35 ⁴³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

(2) Heb. 13:1-3 ¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³ Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.”

b. Appreciate the accomplishments of others.

(1) 1 Cor. 13:4 ⁴ Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,”

(2) 1 Cor. 12:26 ²⁶ And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”

C. Pray more.

1. Rom. 12:12 ¹² Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”

2. Phi. 4:6 ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

3. 1 The. 5:17 ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.”

a. Vine’s—not of what is not interrupted, but of that which is constantly recurring.

b. Are we known as a praying people?

4. Prayers accomplishes much.

a. Psa. 65:2 ² O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.”

b. Jam. 5:16 ¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

D. Give more.

1. Money

a. 2 Cor. 8:1-7 ¹ Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; ² How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. ³ For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves; ⁴ Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵ And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. ⁶ Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. ⁷ Therefore, as ye abound in every *thing*, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, *see* that ye abound in this grace also.”

b. 2 Cor. 9:6-7 ⁶ But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. ⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

2. Time

a. Luke 10:40-42 ⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. ⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: ⁴² But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

b. Psa. 90:10, 12 ¹⁰ The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. ¹¹ Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, *so is* thy wrath. ¹² So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.”

c. 2 Pet. 3:11 ¹¹ *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,”

3. Of yourself

a. 1 Cor. 16:15 ¹⁵ I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)”

- b. 2 Cor. 8:5 ⁵ And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.”
- c. Mat. 10:39 ³⁹ He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.”

E. Visiting

- 1. Be actively involved in our visitation program.
- 2. Jam. 1:27 ²⁷ Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.”
- 3. Wayward members
 - a. Heb. 10:24 ²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:”
 - b. Gal. 6:1 ¹ Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”
 - c. Jam. 5:19-20 ¹⁹ Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; ²⁰ Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

F. Speaking the Word of God

- 1. The Great Commission applies to each of us.
 - a. Mat. 28:19-20 ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 - b. Mark 16:15-16 ¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
- 2. Choose one person to convert this year.
 - a. Pray for him.
 - b. Give him material.
 - c. Invite him to services.

G. Put on the Christian graces

- 1. Rom. 12:1-21 ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. ³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵ So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. ⁹ *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. ¹⁰ *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; ¹¹ Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; ¹² Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; ¹³ Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. ¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. ¹⁶ *Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. ¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine

- enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”
2. 1 Cor. 13:4-8a “⁴ Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. ⁸ Charity never faileth:”
 3. Gal. 5:22-25 “²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”
 4. 2 Pet. 1:3-11 “³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. ⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Conclusion: Let us resolve to do better this year than last in our service for the King and truly put Christ first in our lives; Mat. 6:33 “³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”