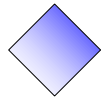


The Voice of Truth



January 6, 2013

Biblical New Year Resolutions

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Another year passes and we are made aware of our most precious, fragile gift: time. Benjamin Franklin wrote “Dost thou love life? Then waste not time, for that is the stuff that life is made of.” Our use of time determines success or failure. Surely it is fitting that we make some Biblical new year’s resolutions to direct us into the future. Let us look at the word “resolutions” for this article.

1. Let us resolve to stay in the (R) Race (Hebrews 12:1). In this race, we must be able to take it and not give up. Paul said, *“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run ...”* (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). We need to get rid of everything that would slow us down or hold us back, or detour us from running the race of our Christian life. Stay in the race!

2. Let us resolve to stop making (E) Excuses (Luke 14:16 ff). A common practice among men is that of excuse-making for their failure to do their duty. Many in the churches take lightly the command to come together for worshipping God. So they make plans as these three did in (Luke 14:16 ff), and use excuses why couldn’t assemble with the saints (Matthew 6:33; Hebrews 10:25). The Master was angry with the three, and all who would lightly consider His generous offer. Stop making excuses, and do your best!

3. Let us resolve to be good (S) Soldiers for Christ (2 Timothy 2:3). This army is made up of all volunteers. Our enlistment began when by faith (Hebrews 11:6) we repented (Luke 13:3) of our sins, confessed (Matthew 10:32-33) the name of our Commander in Chief (Hebrews 2:10) and was buried into Him for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-4; Galatians 3:27). As a result, one is in subjection to God’s will, a member of the spiritual army of God. As soldiers in the Lord’s army we need to *“Fight the good fight of faith”* (1 Timothy 6:12). Brethren, God has a

right to expect godly living, cheerful giving, Bible reading, praying, loving and faithful attendance of worship services from His soldiers. After all we volunteered! We need to say as Paul, *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith”* (2 Timothy 4:7).

4. Let us resolve to keep our (O) Obligations to God (Deuteronomy 6:5; 10:12; 11:1; Matthew 22:37). We, as God’s children have the obligation, duty, we promised the Lord that we will ever be faithful in all His duties as a part of the bride, the church. We promise to love the Lord, the church, to keep the commandments of the Lord, to walk in all His ways and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart. May I implore you to live true to your word being a Christian!

5. Let us resolve to be united in (L) Love (Ephesians 5:1-2; John 13:34-35). John commands Christians to love one another (1 John 3:11; 4:7, 16). The lack of such love causes grievous harm to the growth and welfare of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:15). If there is one thing that all men know about the teaching of Christ, they know that He emphasized love (John 13:35). How do we know that we truly love the brethren? John says, *“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments”* (1 John 5:2).

6. Let us resolve to be (U) unselfish (2 Corinthians 5:15). Who had died for all, deserves all glory! Christians are bought or redeemed for the Lord’s own possession (Ephesians 5:25-26; 1 Peter 1:18-19). One of the most difficult things in life is denying self, and living apart from selfish desires and ambitions, but to be a disciple of Christ it must be done (Matthew 16:24-25). We *“no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God”* (1 Peter 4:2). *“Let no man seek his own”* (1 Corinthians 10:24). The love of Christ constrains us to leave self!

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7. Let us resolve to use our (T) Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). God requires that we use our talents and not only use them, but to use them faithfully. Woe to the brother or sister that shirks their responsibility, for their eternal destiny hangs in the balance. Use them or lose them!

8. Let us resolve to keep our saving (I) Influence (Philippians 1:27). The conversation (manner of life) of the Christian be as cometh the Gospel. The manner of life of the Christian will be either a real asset or a significant liability to the cause of Christ. The conduct of the Christian should adorn the doctrine of God (**Titus 2:10**). Adorn means to beautify. The life of a faithful Christian reveals the beauty of God's will and way. There is nothing more impressive than the influence of a pure Christian life. Show the world what a Christian is (**Matthew 5:13-16**)!

9. Let us resolve to be (O) Orderly. Orderly means a soldier assigned to perform services. We are soldiers in the Lord's army, and we need to be doers, not hearers only (**James 1:22**). It is absolutely essential that we, being followers of Jesus, emulate His example in doing the will of our heavenly Father (**John 4:24**). God pronounces a blessing upon all those who both hear and do His will (**Revelation 22:14**).

10. Let us resolve to be truly a (N) New person in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are new in Christ; the old sinful

self has been put to death (**Romans 6:6**). The old man is the sinful man, a servant of sin (**Romans 6:17**), but in Christ we are new people! The new man is "created in righteousness and true holiness" (**Ephesians 4:24**). A new man is indeed a Christ-like man (**Colossians 3:10**). Are we Christ like? Do people see a different between the old you and the new you (**1 Peter 4:4**)?

11. Let us resolve to (S) Support this congregation! I love the church of our Lord! Have you ever wondered just what you could do to support, to help this congregation be what God desires for it? We can support, help this congregation by:

- A. Living pure lives.
- B. Giving the men of this congregation support.
- C. Promoting love and unity.
- D. Never bringing shame to this congregation.
- E. Giving as God as commanded.
- F. Doing the best you can for the cause of Christ.
- G. Attending every service.
- H. Putting God first.

What are you going to do with this new year God has given you? •

The church of Christ

Has:

- One Builder – Jesus Christ (**Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:9-11**)
- One Purchaser – Jesus Christ (**Acts 20:28**)
- One Head – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23**)
- One Savior – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 5:23**)
- One destiny – eternal salvation (**Eph. 5:23**)

IS:

- The spiritual body of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23**)
- The kingdom of Christ (**Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:28**)
- The depository of those saved (**Acts 2:47**)
- One body, not many bodies (**Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23**)
- One way to be added to the church:
- One must believeth that Christ is the Son of God (**Jno. 8:24**)
- One must repent of sins (**Lk. 13:3**)
- One must confess that Christ is the Son of God (**Rom. 10:9-10**)
- One must be baptized into Christ (**Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**) •

“Happy New Year!”

By Jarrod Jacobs

H - May our **homes** be filled with love (**Col. 3:19; Titus 4**), and may we guide our children in the path of righteousness in 2013.

A - God, through Peter said, “*Be ready **always** to give an answer...*” (**II Pet. 3:15**). Let us be “*always abounding in the work of the Lord*” (**I Cor. 15:58**). We have much to do for the Lord this year; let’s get busy!!

P - **Perseverance** is key if we are to finish our race. Paul is a prime example of what it means to **persevere** (**Phil. 4:11-13**). May we have our eyes on the goal this year (**Col. 3:1-3**)!

P - Face **persecution** the way godly men and women did in Bible days (**Heb. 11:32-40**). The apostle said that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus “*will be persecuted*” (**II Tim. 3:12**). Jesus said those who would suffer would be called “blessed” (**Matt. 5:10-12**).

Y - To those who can, let us give God the strength of our **youth**. One’s **youth** is the time to: Remember God, rejoice in the Lord, and serve Him (**Ecc. 11:9-12:1**). Remember to “*let no one despise you for your youth; but set the believers an example ...*” (**I Tim. 4:12**).

N - **Nothing** can separate us from the love of God (**Rom. 8:35-39**). Throughout this year, when we fall, let us return to the Lord in repentance, and ask Him for forgiveness (**Acts 8:22; I Jn. 1:9**). He will forgive our sins, because He loves us and wants us to be with Him in Heaven one day.

E - Be a righteous **example** before others. Christians have this responsibility, whether young or old (**I Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:2-8**). Remember, our “works” will follow us (**Rev. 14:13**).

W - **Wisdom** is an attribute we need to acquire at all costs (**Prov. 23:23**)! It can only be obtained by spending time in God’s word and then actively applying it!! (Remember, wisdom is the *application* of knowledge!) Make 2013 the year that we heed the words of Solomon and “*get wisdom*” (**Prov. 4:5, 7-13**)!

Y - As we think about where we have been, and where we are going, are we still **yearning** to go to Heaven? Let this drive and determination dwell within our hearts. This life is not the “be-all and end-all”! We are strangers and pilgrims in this world (**I Pet. 2:9**). Therefore, let us **yearn** and actively seek that eternal home - Heaven (**Heb. 11:13-16**)!

E - **Exalt** God and be faithful to Him this year! God wants those ready and willing to worship Him “*in spirit and in truth*” (**Jn. 4:24**). He wants folks whose faithfulness is seen in their words and deeds whether before men, or when we are alone (**Col. 3:17**). Let us reverently **exalt** our King, worship Him faithfully, and bring others to Him in 2013!

A - A new year brings with it certain responsibilities. Among those which demand our highest priority is to be **active** in the Lord’s service. There is no room in God’s army for lazy folks! He needs **active** soldiers (**II Tim. 2:3-4**), “workmen” (**II Tim. 2:15**) who are ready to live for Him every day of this new year!

R - The Christian can **rejoice** because his name is written in Heaven! In whatever state we may be, we ought to say as Paul, “*Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice*” (**Phil. 4:4**). No, circumstances in the coming year will not always be pleasant; but we can still have joy! This is a result of our relationship with Christ — we belong to Him!!

A New Year’s “Acrostic” ... 12 lessons for the next 12 months!!

Credit: The Old Paths - 12/30/12 ♦

**A faith that will not take us to worship will not
Take us to heaven!**

**Either the Bible will keep you from sin . . .
Or sin will keep you from the Bible.**

THINK! THINK! THINK!

What sort of church would the
Lord’s church be if every member
were just like me? ♦

Tomorrow Unknown Author

TOMORROW is the great enemy of advancement. Boasting of TOMORROW is the lazy man’s way of evading today’s duties. TOMORROW leaves more tasks undone, more books unread, more houses un-cleaned, more programs un-launched, more resolutions un-kept than any other factor of life.

TOMORROW is the great enemy of the church. Our greatest liability is not our ignorance, nor our unconcern, nor our unwillingness, but—TOMORROW. More absentees have been neglected, more prospects have gone un-enlisted, more lessons have gone unprepared, and more lost people have gone unsaved because of TOMORROW than any other rea-son.

TOMORROW is the great enemy of the soul. TOMORROW has probably sent more people to hell than all other causes combined. While many infidels, agnostics, and atheists have gone to hell, thousands of “believers” have gone because they counted on TOMORROW.

TOMORROW is Satan’s best scheme in keeping men and women lost. Yes, Satan knows he will never destroy your faith in the Bible, or your belief in the love of God. He does not care when you realize that you need to be a Christian. He knows all of these things are of no avail if he can keep you waiting until TOMORROW.

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1).

Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

THINK ABOUT IT!

When a farmer stops plowing his land, stops planting seed, and stops harvesting his crops, he has stopped doing those things that identify him as being a farmer. When a Christian stops attending worship services regularly, stops studying, stops giving as he has been prospered, and has stopped working for the Lord, he has stopped being a Christian because he has stopped doing those things that identify him as a Christian. *"By their fruits ye shall know them," (Matthew 7:20).* ♦

*Don't think you can ignore the Lord in this life and
He will give you a crown in the Life to come.*

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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How to Contact Us

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Our Address

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Green Bay, WI 54313



Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com