

RESOLUTIONS

1/1/2012

Warm Springs Road church of Christ

Text:

Thesis: Let us make the resolution to be pleasing to God this year.

Intro.

1. It is time for us to make New Years resolutions.
2. I have never been big on these because I have been very happy with the way my life has gone, but I see the need for some changes in my life right now, so there's no better time than the present.
3. Besides I have always felt that if you see the need for change in your life, then you ought to make it when you realize it and not wait for the New Year to come around.
4. I found three definitions for the word "resolution" which I think have a very appropriate spiritual application.
5. Resolution - 1. A firm decision to do or not to do something. 2. The action of solving a problem, dispute, or contentious matter. 3. The process of reducing or separating something into its components (chiefly in Chemistry).
6. Let us consider the spiritual applications of these ideas in an effort to help us make the resolution to be pleasing to God this year.

Discussion

I. Resolution - a firm decision to do or not to do something.

A. Luke 16:4 - resolved - ginosko - to know (so firm you know you will accomplish it)

B. A firm decision to DO SOMETHING.

1. Resolutions are more than goals, but goals are definitely part of resolutions.
 2. What are we going to do? Answering that question requires our setting of goals.
 - a) Long term
 - (1) Heaven - 2 Tim. 4:8
 - (2) Growth - 2 Pet. 3:18
 - (3) Be a servant - Mark 10:44
 - b) Short term
 - (1) Be a teacher - 2 Tim. 2:2
 - (2) Read more
 - (3) Memorize more
 3. Whatever goals you set, if they are going to become resolutions you have to set them knowing that you will accomplish them and that requires a clear course of action (Pro. 29:18 - vision).
 4. Reaching goals is facilitated by CLEARLY DEFINED REWARDS.
 - a) Long term
 - (1) Heaven - have a clear picture
 - (2) Growth - spiritual offspring
 - (3) Be a servant - God's exalting - James 4:10
 - b) Short term
 - (1) Be a teacher - Teach!
 - (2) Read more -
 - (3) Memorize more - a reward itself of reading more
 5. A resolution is a firm decision to do something.
- C. A firm decision NOT to do something.
1. Make it a resolution to eliminate what we might call bad habits.
 - a) Resolving to do this requires being able to visualize what you will do to not do that habit.
 - b) It is easiest to break a bad habit by replacing it with a good one.
 - c) Making a firm decision NOT to do something requires identifying what we do that we should not be doing.
 - (1) Reflection, self evaluation
 - (2) Confession
 - (3) Repentance

D. Resolution - a firm decision to do or not do something

II. Resolution - the action of solving a problem, dispute, or contentious matter.

A. The first, most important, primary problem, dispute, or contentious matter that we must resolve in our lives is the problem of sin.

1. If you have not yet resolved the problem of sin, that is the best resolution you can make in your entire life.
2. Resolving the problem of sin requires a firm decision to put God first in your life, everything else comes after.
3. Resolution is the best that can be hoped for when it comes to sin.
4. We cannot solve the problem of sin, it will always be here, but we can take action to put sin to rest in our own lives and resolve never to participate in it again.
 - a) All have sinned and come short of the glory of God - Rom. 3:23
 - b) Faith is an action towards resolving the sin in our lives - John 8:24
 - c) Repentance is an action towards resolving the sin in our lives - Luke 13:3
 - d) Confession is an action towards resolving the sin in our lives - Rom. 10:9-10
 - e) Baptism is an action towards resolving the sin in our lives - Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
 - f) Living faithfully is the action that reveals whether salvation from sin is a resolution for you, or just a goal - Rev. 2:10.
 - g) We hope to achieve our goals, but we know we will meet our resolutions.
5. The resolution of sin results in peace.
 - a) Sin is an inward personal conflict and the peace that results from its resolution is an inward personal peace.

B. There are also outward conflicts that we must resolve.

1. When we are guilty of sin - Mat. 5:23-26
 - a) Our first concern should be to resolve the sin in our lives.
 - b) It stands between us and God, not to mention the damage it does to the relationships we share with each other.
2. When others have sinned against us - Mat. 18:15-17
 - a) Our first concern in this situation is the state of the relationship between our brother and His Father.
 - b) We love our brethren, so rather than holding a grudge against them or building up resentment against them to one day unleash all of our anger toward them, we go to them immediately and help them resolve the issue.
3. When sinners refuse to resolve their sin - Mat. 18:17
 - a) Rom. 16:17
 - b) 2 The. 3:6
 - c) 1 Tim. 6:5
4. Our concern in matters of outward, interpersonal conflict is that the Lord's will be done, according to the truth, our own positions or reputations notwithstanding.
5. Now let me say, it is known that there are people here, members of the Lord's body, who are living with sin in their lives, unresolved.
 - a) To know that you are in this situation and to refuse to resolve it amounts to willful sin, and all that remains for a willful sinner is a certain fearful looking for of judgment (Heb. 10:26-27).
 - b) I am speaking about our marriages.
 - c) If your marriage is unrecognized by God, then you are living in sin.
 - d) We beg and plead with you to resolve this issue today!
 - e) Now is the time to make the firm decision to be wed to Christ more than your own spouse.
 - f) We only want what is best for you! We want you to go to Heaven!
 - g) If you want to be pleasing to God, we beg you to resolve this issue and do not let it progress any further.

C. A resolution is the solving of a problem, dispute, or contentious matter.

III. Resolution - the process of reducing or separating something into its components.

A. The Something here is being pleasing to God.

1. We want to be pleasing to God, we want to make that a resolution, and so we need to break down that idea into its components.
2. Let us look at Biblical heroes who were pleasing to God, and the components they displayed.
 - a) Know God - Job - Job 42:1-6 (to know God is to love God)

- b) Choose God - Joshua - Jos. 24:15
 - c) Obey God - Samuel - 1 Sam. 15:22
 - d) Serve God - David - 2 Sam. 24:24
 - e) Submit to God - Jesus - Phi. 2:5-9
 - f) Transform for God - Paul - Rom. 12:1-2
- B. Resolving the matter of being pleasing to God involves breaking it down into its constituent parts.
1. Know Him, love Him, choose Him, submit to Him, obey Him, serve Him, transform for Him.