

Let Us Resolve

No. 240

Introduction.

I. Today is the first Sunday of the new year. Millions of people throughout the world are making and have made some New Year's resolutions. They plan to do better in 2004 than they did in 2003. This is a wonderful attitude to possess in life. We must never be complacent, but we need to constantly work to improve and better our lives.

II. I would like for us to make some spiritual resolutions.

I. **More Time Reading The Bible** - Let us resolve to spend more time reading the Bible.

A. The Bible is the most wonderful and precious book in the world.

1. It is God's book. Its contents tell us how to be happy in this life and in the life to come.
2. It leads to eternal life.

B. Even though the Bible is the greatest book known to man, it is seldom read even by some Christians.

1. Many Christians spend very little time reading the scriptures. As the result of this neglect many Christians are ignorant of the Bible and are spiritually under-nourished.
2. Let us determine this year to read the Bible every day. Daily reading will prove to be a great blessing to us.
3. **III. what approx. 15 minutes of daily Bible study will do.** Read 3 or 4 chapter a day. The Bible once or 30 minutes Bible twice.

II. **Pray Every Day This Year** - Let us resolve to pray every day this year.

A. **A doctor, who made it a habit to study great men**, found that each of these men spent a least one hour a day in prayer. He decided that he would also begin to pray daily, but the only time he could find in his busy schedule was morning. So he decided to get up one hour earlier. At first he was afraid that his work might suffer if he had less sleep. But even before his two week trial period was over, he found that they days and weeks went much better for him than usual. In fact, he could no longer get along without prayer in his life.

B. **Prayer is a vital part of our lives as Christians.**

1. It is a **daily spiritual renewal** from which we draw the strength to fulfill our duties and the courage to overcome temptation. Only through a total surrender of ourselves to God in prayer can we know "...the peace of God, which passeth all understanding..."
2. We should pray every day. (Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17).
3. Daily prayer will bring rich blessings to our lives. (Matt. 7:9-11; Eph. 3:20; 1 Pet. 3:13).

III. **Attend All The Services Of The Church** - Let us resolve to attend all the services of the church.

- A. Many Christians have formed the habit of attending just on Sunday morning. Too many church members feel that one's Christian duty has been discharged if they attend the Sunday morning worship service.
- B. Those who have fallen into this fallacy need to be aware that the man who limits himself to attending Sunday service deprives himself of the richest blessings of the Christian life.
 - 1. Those who attend Sunday morning only miss at least two opportunities to learn more of God's word. I am looking forward to this evening service. Lon always has a powerful, Bible based sermon.
 - 2. They miss the additional spiritual strength these other services provide.
 - 3. **They also miss the association.**
 - a. First, they miss **association with the Lord**. Jesus promised to be present when two or three are gathered together in His name. (Matt. 18:20).
 - b. Second, they miss **association with their fellow Christians**. This association is vital to the spiritual welfare of Christians. (Heb. 10:24, 25).
 - 4. In view of these blessings why not plan this year to be a every service of the church? You will be spiritually enriched.

IV. **To Make This World A Better Place To Live** - Let us resolve to make this world a better place to live.

We are living in a very troubled and sin filled world. There are two contrasting attitudes manifested in reference to this fact.

- A. Some have a very **pessimistic attitude toward the world**.
 - 1. They sit around and complain that the world is going to the dogs and do nothing to improve its condition.
 - 2. They are content to twiddle their thumbs and work their tongues in the exercise of criticism.
- B. Others possess an **optimistic attitude toward the world**.
 - 1. They know the world is in a bad condition, but they are determined to do something about it.
 - 2. Some time ago I read an inspiring tract entitled, "**A Better World Begins With Me**" The author tells of her conclusion that this world would never get better until she became better. After praying in her room about the matter, she decided to begin the next day to make the world a better place to live. She got up early the next morning and said to her husband, "Honey, let me bring you some coffee in bed!" He was puzzled, but pleased. She brought her husband the coffee and gave him a good morning kiss. She then asked her husband what he would like to have for breakfast. This caused his eyes to sparkle and made him feel important. She then woke her son by calling him "darling." When he came out of his room, he asked, "Did you call me 'darling,' Mom?" "Yes, I did, son," she replied and gave him a hearty kiss. He laughed and blushed, but he liked it, too. It seemed that their family had been taking one another for granted and had failed to show much affection for one another. These expressions of love initiated a great reformation in their home. It became a happier place to live. **The author also tells of a 84 year old woman who live next door to her all alone.** She had lived next door to her for years, yet she had done little to bring any happiness to her life. She went next door and took some cake. The lady was happy someone had thought of her and a big smile came on her face. This act of kindness made both of their lives brighter. She next decided she would give **a tea** for the elderly ladies who lived in her block. She went to each house, making friends and

issuing invitations. They all came to the tea and had a lovely time. She came to realize that the world is full of lonely people who need to be noticed and made to feel important. These acts of kindness on her part inspired many of her friends to strive to make this world a better and happier place to live. This world will never get better until we get better.

V. Make Our Homes As Christ Would Have Them - Let us resolve to make our homes as Christ would have them.

A. Let us fill them with love, peace and humble obedience to God.

1. Instead of filling our homes with these things, too often we have let mean, ugly, bitter things creep into them.
2. We say and do things that are completely un-Christlike.

B. In fact if Jesus were to come to our homes we would feel ill at ease. This fact is vividly set forth in these lines entitled, "If Jesus Came To Your House."

<p>If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two—</p> <p>If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.</p> <p>Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored guest,</p> <p>And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,</p> <p>And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there—</p> <p>That serving Him in your home is joy beyond compare.</p> <p>But—when you saw Him coming would meet Him at the door</p> <p>With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?</p> <p>Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in</p> <p>Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?</p> <p>Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard,</p> <p>And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?</p> <p>Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?</p> <p>Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?</p> <p>And I wonder—if the Savior spent a day or two with you,</p> <p>Would you go right on doing the things you always do?</p>	<p>Would you go right on saying the things you always say?</p> <p>Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?</p> <p>Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace,</p> <p>And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?</p> <p>Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the books you read,</p> <p>And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?</p> <p>Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go,</p> <p>Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?</p> <p>Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends,</p> <p>Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?</p> <p>Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,</p> <p>Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?</p> <p>It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,</p> <p>If Jesus came in person to spend some time with you.</p>
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VI. Be Active Visiting Others About Christ - Let us resolve to be active visiting others about Christ.

A. A tremendous amount of good can come through visitation. There are so many people who need either to be taught about Jesus or encouraged in the faith or served.

B. **Some years ago a Christian lost interest in the church and quit the church.** Another Christian in that same congregation visited the man regularly for many months. Sometimes he would just stay a couple of minutes. Before he left he would say: "We miss you. We need you. We want you back." After a few months the man did return and was restored to his first love. He later became an active elder in the church

and brought forth fruit a hundred-fold.

- C. **One church in a new community**, which had 100 attendance, made a vow to visit every visitor, every-new-comer, and every absentee. They met once a week and passed out visitors cards. The results were they went from 100 to 700 in just three years. We may not achieve that phenomenal percentage of growth, but we will be surprised at what a systematic visitation program will do. When we go - they come!

VII. **Resolve To Grow In 2004** - Let us resolve to grow in 2004.

- A. **We must not be satisfied with our present number.** We must determine we are going to grow. The Lord does not want us to be content with our number as long as there are lost souls in the world. We wants us to reach out to those who are lost.
- B. In order to grow we must do several things.
 1. First, we need to **become excited about Christianity.** We get excited about football games. We get excited about political campaigns, and many other things. In 2004, let us get excited about the good news of Christ. We have a message that will save man and make his life more abundant.
 2. Second, every one must make **a diligent effort to bring someone to church services** with them each Sunday. All of us know some child or adult that we could bring to Bible study and worship services.
 3. Third, we need to **pray that God will bless our efforts.** We cannot succeed without the help of God. (1 Cor. 3:6).

Conclusion.

- I. May this prayer be on our hearts as we begin this new year.

Another year is dawning! Dear Master, let it be, In working or in waiting, Another year with Thee. Another year is leaning, Upon thy loving breast, Of ever-deepening trustfulness, Of quiet, happy rest.	Another year of mercies, Of faithfulness and grace; Another year of gladness, In the shining of Thy face. Another year of progress, Another year of praise; Another year of proving Thy presence "all the days."	Another year of service, Of witness for Thy love; Another year of training For holier works above. Another year is dawning! Dear Master, let it be On earth, or else in heaven, Another year for Thee!
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- II. A Communist was once extolling the **so-called virtues of Communism before a group of people.** He cried out, "Communism can put a new suit on a man!" Someone in the group replied, "**And Christ can put a new man in the new suit.**"

- A. Jesus is able to make us over. God formed us, sin deforms u, the school informs us, but only Christ can transform us and make us a new person.
- B. Paul said. (2 Cor. 5:17).

- III. **Resolve at this time to give your life to the Lord Jesus Christ!** Jesus will then cleanse you of all your sins and guide and comfort you throughout life. He will make you a new man and give you new purpose and new hope. We urge you to come to Him and be buried with Him in baptism. Come as we stand and sing.

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