

Resolutions Worth Making

At the beginning of each year most people consider making a “New Year’s Resolution.” Resolutions to exercise more, spend less, eat a healthier diet and stop bad habits are common. Approaching this idea from God’s perspective, perhaps the following resolutions would be worth considering:

Read the Bible – “Blessed is the man... whose delight is in the Law of the Lord, and in His Law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:1-3). Those who read God’s word are called “more noble” in Scripture (Acts 17:11). Though our lives are busy with many important activities, let us rededicate ourselves to pursuing a deeper, more meaningful relationship with God through a daily time of reading His word. If you do not have a plan for where to begin, consider starting with one of the following New Testament books: Mark, John, Philippians, or James. If you prefer the Old Testament, consider starting with Psalms, Proverbs, Ezra-Nehemiah, or Deuteronomy.

Pursue a New Friendship – “A man who has friends must himself be friendly” (Prov. 18:24a). The very best friendships are those that inspire us to holier speech, thoughts and living (cf. 1 Cor. 15:33). Is there an acquaintance in your life with whom you might be able to form that type of friendship? Some relationships are the result of circumstances, but the people we keep closest to us are the result of our personal choices. What do the friends you have chosen say about your values and desires?

Finish What You Start – “Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings” (Prov. 22:29). Diligence and perseverance are virtues missing from the lives of many. The Bible calls those who fail to finish what they start “lazy.” Consider the words of Scripture: “The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man’s precious possession” (Prov. 12:27). Will you, at the end of worthwhile endeavors, be able to say like the Lord, “it is finished” (John 19:30)?

Guard Your Words – “He who has knowledge spares his words... even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive” (Prov. 17:27-28). Words, according to the Bible, are like bullets coming out of a gun: they may be used for good or ill, but they are powerful either way. Isn’t it strange that the words that least need to be spoken (criticism, slander, gossip, etc.) usually are, while the words that most need to be spoken (blessing, encouraging, etc.) usually aren’t?

Invest More in Family – “He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind” (Prov. 11:29). One way in which we “trouble our own house” is by the sin of neglect. Neglected marriages are not God’s desire for our homes (cf. Eph. 5:22-33). Neglecting the training and discipline of children is inviting a host of problems into our lives (Eph. 6:4), and failing to truly honor one’s mother and father is a choice that offends God Himself (Eph. 6:1-2). Nobody on his deathbed ever longed to have spent more time at the office; however, countless multitudes have found comfort and solace in the knowledge that they tried their best to treat their families as precious possessions. Let us resolve to acknowledge God’s role in all of our plans, hopes and dreams this year (James 4:13-17). **--JB**