

Resolutions That Make A Difference

Resolution:

- Firm determination to achieve one's ends.
- Decisions determine our eternal destiny.
- New year invites self-examination . . . leads to resolutions.
- Better to make good resolutions even if we fail than not even to try...

I. Bad Resolutions

Solomon

- Ec.1:13, worldly wisdom
 - Danger of evil, egotism, error
- Ec.1:16; 2:4... earthly riches. 1 K.10:27.
Ja.4:13-17
- Ec.1:18, grief
- Ec.2:1-3, pleasure... 2:10-11

RYR, Mt.19:16-22

- Matthew, Mark, Luke place RYR after Lord blessed children . . .

Children were nearer the kingdom than they knew

RYR was farther from the kingdom than he thought

- 16: RYR went at RIGHT time, to RIGHT place . . . Person . . . question: eternal life

RYS, Mt.19

1. 17-19: something old.
2. 20: something new. Wanted tailor-made plan to suit his situation.
3. 21: something borrowed. 6:19-20.
Cf. Matthew (9:9).
4. 21-22: something blue.
 - Prisoner of self-deceit – slave of money (= 13:22).
 - He puts God second by ignoring second commandment.

RYR, Mt.19:16-22

- Too deceived to know the eternal danger he faces.
- Too enslaved to change / too comfortable to repent.
- Tried the truth, found it lacking, walked away, 21.
- Talked with Jesus without gain or profit.

Unjust steward, Lk.16:1-4

- 4: Resolved to maintain earthly station in life.
- 6: quickly (focuses on 'speed of action')
- 8-9: good to prepare for future; he forget his eternal future
 - Dt.1:23, the plan pleased me well . . .
 - 2 Co.1:17, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh?

I. Bad Resolutions

II. Good Resolutions

Jacob, Gn.28, earthly possessions

- 28:20-22
 - Made God his partner
 - Gave share in his prosperity
- 32:...13-16
 - His *token* is more than some acquired in lifetime.
 - Stewardship was no disadvantage to him.

Jacob, Gn.28, earthly possessions

- 2 Cor.8:1-5
 - Macedonians could have many excuses for not giving... BUT:
 - They were single-minded, 2
 - Freely willing ('entirely on their own'), 3
 - First gave themselves, 5
- 2 Cor.9:6-10, giving is not loss, but sowing; it is reaping, not throwing

Joshua, Josh.24:15

- Led family to obey God . . .
- It did not matter what others did
- Families once had much help this this choice
 - Society once frowned on divorce, adultery...
 - Self-discipline, child-discipline were common...applauded
 - Schools taught morals. Now, depths of depravity.

Joshua, Josh.24:15

- Neh.13²³ In those days I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. ²⁴ And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.
 - Ungodly marriages produced corrupt generations
 - Israel's identity was eroding; they lost their past progress

Pray regularly, Ps.116:2

- Are we a praying people?
- Moses, Ex.32
- Jesus, Lk.22³¹ And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.

Meditate on statutes, Ps.119:48

- We read magazines ... books ... phones ... computer screens ... but . . .
- Nothing changes character more than reading the Word.

Stand for convictions, Dan.1

- Many are pressured by boss, peers, society to use alcohol, drugs, crude language, to practice immorality, etc.
- **We are never immune to sin...**
- 18-20
- Wrong is wrong even if . . .
 1. Majority accepts it, Ex.23:2
 2. We don't get caught, Prov.15:3
 3. It doesn't bother our conscience, 1 Tim.4:2

Share gospel with others, Ro.1

13: planned to come . . . fruit among you. 1:11

14: debtor . . . Anxious to pay his debt

15: eager, willing

16: not ashamed...

- Includes family

If we believe we cannot change, we will not change

- Ph.4:13, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me
- We can resolve at any time to do better
- Then we must act upon it
- Jg.5:15, Among the divisions of Reuben there were great resolves of heart
 - They felt the patriotic impulse, but preferred safety and comforts of home