

RESOLUTE

This time of year, many begin looking ahead with excitement to the coming of a new year. Lists are being compiled of things that individuals are just determined to see through in 2010. These “New Year’s Resolutions” are usually things that people have wanted to do in the past but have not gotten around to – yet. Making goals for one’s self is good and needed. However, at this time of year, it is equally important (but sorely neglected) to examine the things which we are doing right and be resolute to continue in them. Many times this goes undone because we are too busy thinking about those things we’ve yet to begin. Resolutions for the future are fine, but standing firm on that in which we are already succeeding is just as, if not more, important. As resolutions are being made for the coming year, let us be equally excited and resolved to continue doing that which is right.

Let us remain resolute in our faithfulness and obedience to God. No one enters a new year thinking that he will fall from grace, but since apostasy is possible (Gal. 5:4), we must be resolved to remain “stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58). Many will spend so much time and effort on “new” things in the new year that they will lose footing in the “old paths.” We must be resolute for, “thus saith the LORD, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls” (Jer. 6:16).

Let us remain resolute in our defense of the Gospel. God’s Word is attacked daily. God’s plan to save man and God’s edicts regarding worship are under assault. We must resolve to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3). The Gospel is the power of God which leads man to salvation (Rom. 1:16-17; 2 Thes. 2:14). Without hearing the Gospel, man cannot produce faith (Rom. 10:17) and therefore cannot be pleasing to God (Heb. 11:6). Sadly, there are men who try to pervert the Gospel (Acts 13:8-10; Gal. 1:7) and a perverted Gospel cannot save. For this reason, we must be resolute in our efforts to expose doctrinal error and promote the pure Gospel of Christ.

Let us remain resolute as we labor “to seek and to save” those who are lost (Luke 19:10). Jesus says, “go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16). Every Christian should be diligently trying to share the Gospel with as many people as possible. It’s not always easy. As we resolve to teach the Truth, millions of souls are resolving to do everything *but* “hear” (Rom. 10:17). However, there is “good ground” still waiting to be sown the seed of God’s Word. In one of His parables, Jesus states, “the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience” (Luke 8:15).

As we enthusiastically look forward to the start of a brand new year, let us not forget to remain resolute in our “work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thes. 1:3). Resolve to be and do better, but be just as determined to continue to “stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1).

- Brad Green

