



The Good News

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Being Resolved

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As we begin the New Year people everywhere are making, or have made, New Year resolutions. Most of the time, people make resolutions that revolve around material things, such as losing weight or being smarter with their money. What are your New Year resolutions? As we get ready to enact our resolutions, let us consider some resolutions that we all should have every year as Christians.

Spend more time in God's Word: There is no such thing as studying the Bible too much. Paul encouraged Timothy in **I Tim. 4:12-16** to "*meditate*" on the things of the Gospel and "*give yourself to them*". Paul says again in **II Tim. 2:15** "*Study to show yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*". The NKJV has "*be diligent*" instead of "*study*", but both mean the same thing in the context of "*dividing the word of truth*". The only way I can rightly determine God's word is to give myself over to it and truly be devoted to studying God's word. It is the only way to know God, Christ, and what I need to do to be saved. One resolution should be to set time aside every day to read **and study** my Bible. It is important to understand the difference between the two. Reading, just for the sake of saying "I've read my Bible today!" doesn't do me any good. However, reading and then **studying** what I've read has great profit. "Study" means "*to apply oneself to the acquisition of knowledge, as by reading, investigation, and practice; to examine or investigate carefully and in detail*". This means that as I read, I am mindful of not only the context of what is written, but also possible applications that I can make from what I read. I can even go deeper by cross-referencing other passages that share the same principles to deepen my understanding of what I've read. In doing this, it will be easier to remember what I've read.

Get back to fundamentals (I Tim. 6:11-12): All of us have certain weaknesses and strengths, and not just in context of temptations and sin. We will all find things that we wish we could change or make better if we look deeply enough. Some of us may have issues

trusting other people or even God. We may have submission issues to our husbands, parents, or appointed authorities. We may have problems with our attitudes; perhaps we are too self-centered. Of course, Satan certainly uses temptations to appeal to weaknesses within our character, such as having a hard time keeping our minds pure from lustful thoughts, or controlling our tongues. Whatever the case, set aside an hour to sit down and think deeply about your character and write down all of the weaknesses you have as a Christian and servant of God, including temptation weaknesses, and write one Scripture next to each item that can help you address it this year. Then make sure to look at the list on a daily basis to remind yourself of all the things you need to be working on.

Remember Heaven is our Goal – In **Heb. 12:1** the Hebrew writer encourages us to "*lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...*" Part of the process of accomplishing this will be to update our "strength and weakness" list. Understanding our own shortcomings will help us this year to flee from temptation. We should have a few things in mind as we seek to achieve this: 1) Control your thoughts! We realize that every sin starts in our own hearts and minds first. If we can nip these thoughts in the bud by practicing self-control and mental discipline, we can avoid a lot of problems for ourselves. 2) Avoid compromising situations. We can read **Gen. 39:11-12** and find that Joseph was faced with a compromising situation. His solution? He ran. When all else fails, we must not be too proud to run away, as sometimes it may be the only way to avoid sin. Be aware of your surroundings and always think ahead to make sure you do not willfully put yourself in temptations way. We all know the saying about those who play with fire...

Resolution, as defined by dictionary.com is "*a course of action determined or decided on; set in purpose*". These are just three resolutions that all of us should make as we begin 2017. Will you resolve to better yourself as a servant of God this new year?