

Upcoming Events...

- 1 Corinthians Class: Every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.
Establish Master Calendar for 2018
- Corporation meeting: Budget/Financial Report
- Business Meeting:** January 14 at 4:30 p.m.
- Ladies Bible Class:** January 21 at 4:00 p.m.
- Barnabas Group Meeting:** January 30

Resolution for the New Year...Consider Joshua

"...choose you this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

December Birthdays

- 6 Olivia White 17 Bill Brown 27 Sue Tanner
- 29 Noah McKnight 30 Richard Karns 31 Bob Pescador

January Birthdays

- 5 John Aguiar 14 Juanita Small

January Anniversaries

- 8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

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Godly Men Make Resolutions

By Dan Jenkins

It's that time of year when people make resolutions, only to see them fade away in the days which follow. This does not mean that all resolutions are worthless, but when it comes to our resolve in spiritual matters, we should take this seriously. The wisest man, Solomon, said, *"When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasures in fools. Pay what you have vowed—better not to vow than to vow and not pay"* (Eccl. 5:4-5). Look at the resolve of three godly men in the Bible.

Personal resolutions. Who would have ever seen Saul of Tarsus, who became the great apostle Paul, as a prospect for conversion? Who would have ever seen him as the author of half of the New Testament books? Yet, God does not see as man sees, for man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart (1 Sam. 16:7). What was it that God saw that others could not see? Perhaps the answer is found in a resolution Paul made early in his life. He said, *"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward man"* (Acts 24:16). What a noble resolution the apostle made. Is this one I should make?

Family resolutions. Every godly parent is concerned about the spiritual welfare of every member of the family. Look at the resolution one godly father made. The Jews had entered the land God promised He would give to them. Joshua had successfully led the nation and the land had been taken. He called Israel together and challenged them to make a life changing decision about the future of the new nation.

Joshua presented two choices before them. They could worship the idols in the land they had taken or they could choose to serve God.

Regular Meeting Times

- Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
- Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
- Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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He then expressed his resolution about his family. *“Fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in truth. . .choose you this day whom you will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”* (Josh. 24:14-15). Is this resolution one I should make for my family?

Broken resolutions. What do you do when you have made promises to God and have failed to live up to them. There was that disciple who expressed his resolve to the Lord when he said, *“Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You”* (Matt. 26:35). Yet, he did deny him. His resolution did not become reality. Fortunately, this is not the end of the story. Less than two months after uttering these words and then cursing and swearing that he did not even know Jesus, he stood before the Jewish nation and preached on Pentecost. What a great story!

Think about it. Are there promises I need to make to the Lord. Even if I have failed before, He can still use me!

The Best Sermons Are Lived, Not Preached

(Shared by Arne Eaton, Brawley Friend)

1. Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I'm working on for my Psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said, "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile."

2. Today, I asked my mentor - a very successful business man in his 70s- what his top 3 tips are for success. He smiled and said, "Read something no one else is reading, think something no one else is thinking, and do something no one else is doing."

3. Today, after a 72-hour shift at the fire station, a woman ran up to me at the grocery store and gave me a hug. When I tensed up, she realized I didn't recognize her. She let go with tears of joy in her eyes and the most sincere smile and said, "On 9-11-2001, you carried me out of the World Trade Center."

4. Today, after I watched my dog get run over by a car, I sat on the side of the road holding him and crying. And just before he died, he licked the tears off my face.

5. Today at 7AM, I woke up feeling ill, but decided I needed the money, so I went into work. At 3PM I got laid off. On my drive home I got a flat tire. When I went into the trunk for the spare, it was flat too. A man in a BMW pulled over, gave me a ride, we chatted, and then he offered me a job. I start tomorrow.

6. Today, as my father, three brothers, and two sisters stood around my mother's hospital bed, my mother uttered her last coherent words before she died. She simply said, "I feel so loved right now. We should have gotten together like this more often."

7. Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About 5 seconds after he passed, I realized it was the first time I had given him a kiss since I was a little boy.

8. Today, when I witnessed a 27-year-old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2-year-old daughter's antics, I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again.

9. Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across campus to my class and as he was leaving he said, "I hope you feel better soon."

10. Today, I was feeling down because the results of a biopsy came back malignant. When I got home, I opened an e-mail that said, "Thinking of you today. If you need me, I'm a phone call away." It was from a high school friend I hadn't seen in 10 years.

11. Today, I was traveling in Kenya and I met a refugee from Zimbabwe. He said he hadn't eaten anything in over 3 days and looked extremely skinny and unhealthy. Then my friend offered him the rest of the sandwich he was eating. The first thing the man said was, "We can share it."

The best sermons are lived, not preached.