

Upcoming Events...

Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Business Meeting: January 14 at 4:30 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class: January 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Barnabas Group Meeting: January 30

Promises

“It is not the oath that makes us believe the man, but the man the oath.” - Aeschylus -

“No pillow so soft as God’s promise.” - Author Unknown -

“Consistency is the true foundation of trust. Either keep your promises or do not make them.” - Roy T. Bennett -

January Birthdays

5 John Aguiar 14 Juanita Small

January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

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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New Year’s Resolutions

“I have chosen to be faithful; I have determined to live by your laws” (Psalm 119:30).

The term “resolution” (as we often think of it) basically means “firm determination to take a course of action.” With each new year people all around the nation make their new year’s resolutions. With some it is to quit smoking; with others it’s to go on a diet or to get more exercise (etc.). Though intentions are usually very good, for many it seems that their determination loses steam in just a short while.

The same kind of frustration can be seen in our spiritual lives. It’s not good enough to just talk the talk, we must also walk the walk. There is little good in making noble plans if we will not put those plans into action and see them through.

God (our most perfect example) says of Himself, *“...Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it”* (Isaiah 46:11). Let me encourage all of us to follow God’s example. And let us not only resolve to do the Lord’s will, let us actually do it.

New Year’s Resolutions

By Jeff Arnette

Yes, it’s that time again. It is the time of year when we usually commit ourselves to several worthy goals. We do this because we want to make our lives and faith better. We want to improve and that is a worthy goal. I have noticed that most of our resolutions revolve around money, health, and family.

While these are worthy goals, what would it look like if we could set the resolutions for the church or our family? I would venture to say that we would set a much more rounded, holistic set of resolutions. As I reflected on this question, I came up with a list that I think is a good start. It is not perfect by any means but these are the things I would like to see myself and others focus on.

- **Pray more** – 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
- **Invest in our God given talents** – 1 Timothy 4:14-15; Matthew 25:14-30.
- **Get more intentional about evangelism** – 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.
- **Care for ourselves spiritually** – Philippians 3:12-16; Mark 6:31; Exodus 20:8-11.
- **Be willing to make the tough decisions** – Acts 20:22-24.
- **Confront the sin in our life** – Heb. 12:1-2.
- **Be forgiving of others and myself** – Matthew 6:14-15.
- **Love people without boundaries** – 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.
- **Quit comparing myself to others** – John 21:20-23; 2 Corinthians 10:12.
- **Read more** – 2 Timothy 4:9, 13.
- **Make family a priority** – Colossians 3:18-21.
- **Stay focused on the Lord and His church** – Acts 2:42-47.
- **Continue to grow** – Ephesians 4:15-16; 2 Peter 3:17-17
- **Treat others like I would like to be treated** – Matthew 7:12; Isaiah 1:16-17.
- **Seek heavenly things above all else** – Colossians 3:1-2.

This is a difficult list that could take a lifetime to master and yet, we are called to be Christ-like in every aspect of our life. Let's use our resolutions to ensure that we become the best Christian possible.

Being Sensible

(from Memory Delight)

Jonathan Edwards, the 18th-century revivalist, sat down at age 17 and penned 21 resolutions by which he would live his life. Throughout his lifetime he would add to this list until, by his death, he had 70 resolutions.

He put at the top of his list: "Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat Him by His grace to enable me to keep these Resolutions.... Remember to read over these Resolutions once a week."

Edwards didn't casually make New Year's resolutions with an expectation of eventually breaking them. Each week he did a "self-check." He regularly summed up how he was doing and sought God's help in the process.

Christ calls us to commit to actively work at becoming conformed to His image. This coming year resolve to become a person committed to a godly transformation. How can we do that? Win our battle every morning. Meaning, when we get up in the morning, the first things we should do is set our mind in the right direction.

Try Harder

By Steve Higginbotham

I'm convinced that many of us may not resist the temptation to sin as we should. It's not that we want to sin, for we don't. It's just that when temptation crosses our path, we don't fight it as though we were in a life or death struggle. We may resist, but the resistance is only token.

Not long ago, a friend of mine gave a lecture in which he raised the question, "What if every time we sinned, an ugly scar appeared upon our face? How much harder would we resist sin? Good question. None of us would like to have our faces scarred. Scars to our faces would be embarrassing, affecting our relationships and our behavior. I'm sure we would tenaciously fight the temptation of sin if succumbing meant a big scar on our faces.

You see where I'm going, right? Why should we fight harder to preserve our temporal flesh than we would to preserve our eternal soul? The fact that we can't see the scars sin leaves upon us doesn't mean they're not there. Friends, resist the temptation to sin, using not just a token resistance before we succumb, but a persistence that reflects a life and death struggle.