

Resolved to...

“One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, all who are mature, let’s have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that to you as well.”
Philippians 3:13-15

“In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified.” Titus 2:7

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown 31 Bob Pescador

January Birthdays

14 Juanita Small

January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

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Crisis Reveal Our Character

By Joe Chesser
(Modified to fit 2023)

What would you do if you were fired from your job and put in prison because your employer's wife told horrible lies about you?

What would you do if you had run for your life because you helped defend a neighbor from an injustice?

What would you do if you were offered something you greatly desired but knew was illegal and life-threatening to obtain?

What would you do if suddenly you discovered that all that you had believed in the past was not true, and instead of serving God you were actually fighting Him?

What would you do if you were offered a considerable amount of money to betray a friend?

What would you do if you found out that the woman to whom you were engaged became pregnant before the wedding, and you knew it wasn't your child?

These are not hypothetical questions. They really happened, and the answers to these questions reveal the type of character each person possessed at the time the crisis occurred. You can probably identify each of the people in the above scenarios: Joseph (Jacob’s son), Moses, Eve, Paul, Judas, and Joseph (and Mary). Some of them faced the crisis with faith and resolve and withstood the challenge. Others failed. But what these examples teach us is that when crises occur, our character will be revealed.

All of us have faced and will continue to face many challenges in our lives. They may be strong temptations; they may be difficult choices; they may be heart-breaking health issues. And many of

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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our crises are not personally our own – they may involve our spouse, parents, children, family, or friends. Still, they are heavy burdens.

As we reflect on 2022, it's easy to see that there were countless crises that shaped, molded, and revealed our character. Not much we can do about them now except to determine that in 2023 we will learn from our mistakes and enhance our strengths.

How we handle crises reveals who we really are. It also reveals how we have prepared for the inevitable challenges. We may not know exactly the kind of crises that may be coming in 2023, but they will come. How we prepare today for them will determine how these crises affect us. Roy Disney once said, "When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier." Our three basic optional responses to crises are: 1) Joseph was able to overcome the crisis with Potiphar's wife because he had already established his values, even as a teenager; 2) Moses overcame a poor decision by developing spiritually while in the wilderness; 3) Judas allowed his crisis to destroy him.

What will 2023 reveal about our character?

Following the Pattern in the New Year

By Joe Slater

What do you suppose God's people were doing on New Year's Day roughly 3500 years ago? Would you believe they were putting up the tabernacle? "*On the first day of the first month, you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting*" (Exodus 40:1). "*And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was raised up*" (Exodus 40:17).

Earlier in Exodus (chapters 25-31) God had given Moses explicit and detailed instructions about the tabernacle and all of its furnishings, beginning with this exhortation: "*According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so shall you make it*" (Exodus 25:9). The Lord repeated this command several times as He specified the dimensions, materials, design, etc., of the tabernacle

and its furnishings. "*And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain*" (Exodus 25:40). "*And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain*" (Exodus 26:30). "*As it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make it*" (Exodus 27:8).

Moses and the Israelites took God seriously! "*Thus, Moses did; according to all that the Lord had commanded him, so he did*" (Exodus 40:16).

The tabernacle and things associated with it were a shadow of the better things Jesus Christ established in the New Covenant. The Hebrews writer taught that we ought to be even more diligent to be faithful in the New Covenant than Moses and the Israelites were in the Old Covenant (Hebrews 2:1-4; 10:28-31).

In this new year, let us renew our determination to follow God's pattern set forth in the New Testament!

Urgency in Making Resolutions for the New Year?

By Johnny Hester

(Excerpts from the article)

In Proverbs chapter six God warns us about the folly of indolence, discourages procrastination and commends to us the wisdom of acting with resolve and energy in our own best interest.

*Go to the ant, you sluggard!
Consider her ways and be wise,
Which, having no captain,
Overseer or ruler,
Provides her supplies in the summer,
And gathers her food in the harvest.
How long will you slumber, O sluggard?
When will you rise from your sleep?
A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to sleep —
So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler,
And your need like an armed man.*

As we approach the new year, we need to appreciate the need for urgency in setting worthwhile resolutions or goals.