

JANUARY 6, 2013

THE SOLUTION TO YOUR RESOLUTION

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

Tradition dictates that at the start of the New Year, we take a few minutes to write down our New Year's resolution list — have we made our list for 2013? But the more important question is -- at the end of each year have we fulfilled our resolutions?

The Solution to our Resolutions is simple but impossible without the grace of God.

It begins with a **PROPER VIEW OF OURSELVES AND OF GOD.**

The apostle Paul writes in Phil 3:13-14 "I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet". What does this mean? What is the attitude that Paul wants us to learn from him?

Paul is the author of the majority of the books of the New Testament. He was evangelized by Jesus Christ Himself on the way to Damascus. During his lifetime, he disciplined many and evangelized to thousands. . . And yet he says he has *not laid hold of it yet* . In this he meant that he realized despite all that he has already done, he still has not completed the task that the Lord Jesus had planned for him.

He further explains in Philippians 3:4-7 *although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee;⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.*

By the world's standards, he could say he has made it (v 4) and he continues to enumerate all the things that he could possibly boast of. But in spite of all these he says in verse 7 *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ .*

This is the attitude we must take on in order to have a proper view of ourselves and of God. He says that all those things that to others may mean boasting rights, to him they were nothing, they were trash, a loss as compared to an intimate relationship with Christ.

He is telling us that God is not concerned about what we do but who we are in Him. That is why character development is more important than ministry work.

Paul further elaborates this in Romans 12:3 *For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith .* Beyond all the so called achievements we may have in life whether in our secular life or ministry life — in the end the only important question is : Who are we? And Who are we in God?



380 S. Rosemead Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107

Sundays
945 AM
Heart
Preparation

1000 AM
WORSHIP

Dgroup Schedules

Tuesdays
700 pm
1102 E Swanee Lane
West Covina, CA

Thursdays
730 pm
2617 N Parish Place
Burbank, CA

Fridays
700 pm
5124 Ashworth St
Lakewood, CA

Fridays
730 PM
4706 Ivar Ave
Rosemead, CA

Please contact Rey Bejerano at
6263545717 for venue changes

Is God a part of your resolutions? Or is your resolutions based on what you can achieve on your own? Have you ever tried making resolutions that you can only achieve with God's help?

Jesus tells us in John 15:5 **I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.**

After developing a proper view of ourselves and of God, the next thing we should have is a **PROPER VIEW OF OUR GOAL.**

What are the goals that we have set up for ourselves in 2013? Paul gives us a suggestion to simplify our goals. He says *one thing I do*. This is the simplest kind of resolution — to limit yourself to only one goal. Paul says *one thing I do* is to focus on the upward call of Jesus Christ.

Often times we set ourselves up for failure by putting up too many goals for ourselves. Instead of doing that in 2013, why don't we limit ourselves to just one goal in mind and base everything else on that goal. Proverbs 29:18 says **when there is no vision, the people are unrestrained.** We all need a goal, a target to fix our eyes on, something that we continue to move towards to, if we don't have a goal we will end up wandering around aimlessly. Similar to a race, a runner keeps his eyes on the goal. He does not look around but rather he is fixated on that finish line exerting all that he has. If we do not have a goal, we will be wasting our efforts and energy on everything but on nothing of importance.

Years ago, a man named Thomas Alva Edison set his mind on one goal. He tried 2000 experiments and despite criticisms and failures, he kept at it. He did not give up. Paul encourages to keep at it and not to give up — to focus our efforts on doing just one thing. . . And what is this one thing? He says in 1 Corinthians 10:31 **Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**

So in everything we do — we do it for the glory of God. We come to church early on Sunday morning not for ourselves, but for the glory of God. To read the bible, to attend midweek bible studies . . . Not for the acquisition of knowledge, but more importantly for the glory of God. Godly husbands would choose to love their unsubmitive and disrespectful wives, godly wives choosing to submit and respect their unloving husbands. . . Not for their sanity, but for the glory of God.

If we have only one goal, and our goal is to give glory to God — we will revolutionize the church and impact the community. If we choose to do everything and anything for the glory of God, like the apostle Paul — he did not care what other said about him, he did not care what happened to him because he was aimed for one thing only — that in every situation in his life, he would give glory to God. He found consolation in the fact that Christ was proclaimed. (Philippians 1:18)

Can we, like Paul, aim to do only one thing in our life? That in whatever we do, we do it all for the glory of God.

The next logical question then is How? We should have a **PROPER STRATEGY.**

1. Learn from the Past.

- * Paul tells us to forget what lies behind.
- * The past is the past, but we can learn from every ache and pain otherwise they will all be for nothing.
- * Biblical forgetting means: to no longer be influenced by or affected by the past; to break the power of the past by living for the future
- * Similarly, the Old Testament was written for us to learn from. Romans 15:4 tells us that it was written for our instruction so that through perseverance and encouragement we might have hope.

2. Live in the Present

- * Paul tells us to keep reaching forward to what lies ahead.
- * To take advantage of opportunities now and not to put off for tomorrow what you can do today.
- * Let us not fall into the trap of putting God in a box — we should learn how to listen to His answers to our prayers. They may not always come in the thunder and in the fire. . . Maybe He is speaking to us in a whisper.
- * We often cry out to God grumbling and complaining that He doesn't answer our prayers, when in fact God is telling us that we should move forward. (Exodus 14:15). We will never know what opportunities God is opening up for us if we do not stick out our necks and allow ourselves to be vulnerable.

3. Look forward to your heavenly reward.

- * Like Paul, we should focus all our energy and efforts to gain the prize of the upward call of Christ Jesus. That our ambition should be to please God. (2 Cor 5:9) we do this because God is a rewarder. And when the day of judgment comes, He will award those who have pleased Him with crowns of righteousness.
- * We have to constantly remember that the Christian life is not difficult, rather it is impossible but the benefits are out of this world.

Works: Journaling task

My Resolution list for 2013: All for the glory of God

1. What is it in my character that I have to change in order to have a proper attitude and view of myself and God? Am I in denial of some respectable sin? Am I not listening to God's promptings? Am I embittered? Am I frustrated? Am I grumbling?
2. If I aim to do only one thing in 2013, What are some of the things that I can do to give glory to God?
 - A. As a child of God
 - B. As a spouse
 - C. As a child
 - D. As an employee
 - E. As a member of this church
 - F. As a member of my community
3. What strategies should I undertake to use my life to glorify God?
 - A. What in my past do I have to start forgetting in order to move forward?
 - B. What are the lessons I have learned in my past that I can use in order to give glory to God?
 - C. What is it that is stopping me from living in the present? Am I willing to stick out my neck and take risks?
 - D. Am I taking advantage of all the opportunities that God is giving me today?
 - E. What do I aim to achieve on judgment day? Do I want to enter heaven unnoticed or enter heaven with great rejoicing?

How has this message made me grow in the process of Discipleship in terms of:

SUPREME LOVE OF GOD

STUDY & DEVOTION TO GOD'S WORD

SELF DENIAL

CHRIST-LIKE LOVE
