

## I Am Resolved!

Phil 3:7-14

**Philippians 3:7-14** - But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 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, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

### ***Introduction:***

- A. Here it is again! Resolution-making time! Some folks never bother. They figure that resolutions, like rules and diets, are made to be broken! Others say, "I resolve to make no resolutions!"
  - B. Christians ought to be resolution-making, resolved people. The Lord's words and the letters of His apostles were all about being determined to make the right changes. That's the very heart of repentance!
  - C. As a New Year looms, comes the opportunity to be better people than we were last year. Let's take our cue from #325 - I Am Resolved (HFW Revised) (642)
- I. ***I Am Resolved No Longer To Linger, Charmed By The World's Delight...***
- A. No doubt the world is an enticing place.
    - 1. Pleasures and recreations abound enticing people to grab for all the gusto they can.
  - B. Sometimes, though, what we grab for soon grabs us!
    - 1. In Algiers, the peasants attach a hollow pumpkin filled with rice to a tree to catch monkeys
    - 2. Be smarter than a monkey!
  - C. We're warned about loving the appeal of this world - 1 Jn 2:15-17
- 1 John 2:15-17** - Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
- D. The world (and its system) won't last forever -2 Pet 3:10-15a
- 2 Peter 3:10-15** - But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

E. That is why the song reminds, "Things that are higher, things that are nobler, These have allured my sight!" - Col 3:1-3

**Colossians 3:1-3** - Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

## II. *I Am Resolved To Go To The Savior, Leaving My Sin And Strife...*

A. The reason is simple: "He hath the words of life!"

1. Everything the Lord and His apostles said is geared toward preparing us for heaven as we live this life - 2 Tim 3:16-17

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2. These "words of life" require a response from us:

a. obedience - Jn 14:21

**John 14:21** - "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

b. The more we keep His word, the more He reveals Himself to us

B. But it takes determination to lead sinless lives - Jas 4:14, 17; 1 Jn 3:1-10

**James 4:14** - Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

**James 4:17** - Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

**1 John 3:1-10** - See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

1. Sin is the great separator of man and God

2. We cannot afford to flirt with it

## III. *I Am Resolved To Follow The Savior, Faithful And True Each Day...*

A. There is no one who offers what Jesus does but He came to be not only our Savior, but also our Lord.

1. There are some who deny His Lordship, and thus, heaven for themselves - Matt 7:21-23; Lk 6:46

**Matthew 7:21-23** - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

**Luke 6:46** - "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

2. "Jesus is Lord" means we submit to Him in obedience every time - Col 1:21-23; Heb 5:9

**Colossians 1:21-23** - And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach-- if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

**Hebrews 5:9** - And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

B. This all speaks of DAILY faithfulness & persistence, NOT a "Sunday morning only" kind of Christianity

1. The Lord is consistently faithful to us and requires that we be the same to Him.
  - a. A Welsh postman had the British Empire Medal conferred upon him by Queen Elizabeth; he had not missed a day's service in 43 years.
  - b. Paul Ehrlich, the chemist, performed 605 unsuccessful experiments; the 606th was a success!
  - c. Thomas Edison made 18,000 experiments before he perfected the arc light. After experiencing 50 failures on another project he said, "I have found 50 ways it cannot be done!"
  - d. Winston Churchill, speaking at a graduation ceremony at his alma mater said simply, "Never, never, never give up!"
  - e. That was faithfulness!
2. We will make mistakes and occasionally stumble. What's important is that we never give up.

#### **IV. I Am Resolved To Enter The Kingdom...**

A. There is the kingdom of God on earth - the church

1. It is where the Lord reigns in each individual's heart (1 Pet 3:15) as we strive to enter the heavenly kingdom - Col 1:13

**1 Peter 3:15** - but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

**Colossians 1:13** - For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

B. Then, there is the kingdom of heaven which will never fade.

1. It takes grace and work to gain it - Tit 2:11-14; 2 Pet 1:5-11

**Titus 2:11-14** - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present

age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

**2 Peter 1:5-11** - Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

2. It is a resolution that must take priority over all else - Matt 6:33

**Matthew 6:33** - "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

3. There will be a cost to true discipleship, but for the one who endures, the rewards will FAR outweigh the adversities - Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:16-18

**Romans 8:18** - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** - Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

### ***Conclusion:***

A. I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free! Jesus offers an invitation (Matt 11:28-30).

B. It is an invitation offering the greatest of rewards. BUT, it is not without responsibility of obligation. The proper response is to "hasten," run to Him!