

Another Word January 5, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Ah, New Year's resolutions. Did you make any? If so, have you broken them yet? If so you are not alone. A recent survey showed that over 50% of the resolutions we make are broken within the first 2 weeks, and over 75% never make it through January. Maybe you are like me and just say, "Why bother!"

As believers, maybe we need to look at resolutions a little differently. If we put God at the center of our resolutions, they have a better chance to succeed. God gives us choice, free will, and He never oversteps that freedom. But His word makes clear what choices, which resolutions are better than others. So, choosing to obey His will within a resolution is always the right choice. But how do we know? Where do we start?

If we are to make a resolution we can live with, our first priority should be to make more time to read and study His word. How and on what our time is spent is an indication on what and who we love most. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, soul, and mind. That is the first and greatest commandment. The second is, love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39) Ask yourself, what is the #1 love in your life? Go ahead and ask; I'll wait. Be honest!

This is a great place to start with any resolution. Is it about "me" or about God's desire for my life? And to answer this question, you need to set a goal, a resolution to devote more time in prayer and to be in His word; to understand more completely what God requires of you. As you do, you will find even more resolutions filling your life. Things like

memorizing positive and encouraging verses, expanded meaningful prayer time, even journaling how and when God answers your prayers. It can even lead to spending more time with family and friends, calling the sick and elderly you've been meaning to "get around to" doing, or just becoming more organized in your life.

So, what is the payoff? Paul said it to the church in Colosse, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Colossians 3: 23-24) WOW! Imagine, working for God, with His love in your heart, and then working for the love of your fellow man. If you do, your goals, your resolutions will be life changing, enriching, and they will never be broken or fail.

May we pray.

Almighty and gracious God, as we embark on a new year, we find ourselves filled with hope but also questions and fears. May we never forget to first honor you with our lives, and to know you are always with us, guiding and protecting us from harm. May we also show more compassion on those around us, and to keep you at the heart of all we say and do. With new mercies given us each day, may we live to worship you with contagious joy and deep gratitude for all the gifts you constantly shower on us. In Jesus precious name we pray, Amen

In His peace,

*Rich*