RESOLUTIONS

Intro: With the start of the New Year many people make resolutions concerning their life. In this lesson let us take a look at the word resolutions, and learn some lessons.

I. R — Read
   A. We are what we think.
      1. Pro. 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”
      2. Mat. 15:19-20 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.”
   B. Read to influence our heart.
      1. 1 Tim. 4:13 “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”
      2. Read the Bible, daily Bible readers.
      3. Good brotherhood papers.

II. E — Endure
   A. Often we want to give up.
   B. We must continue on.
      1. Heb. 11:27 “By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”
      2. Afflictions
         a. 2 Tim. 2:3 “Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”
         b. 2 Tim. 4:5 “But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”
      3. Whatever burdens might come our way.
      4. Endure in good works. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
   C. Endure to the end.
      1. Mat. 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”
      2. Rev. 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

III. S — Shine
   A. Mat. 5:13-16 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
   B. Phi. 2:15 “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world”
IV. O — OBSERVE

A. Worship to God
1. Sing praises to Him
2. Pray to the Father through Christ
3. Study God’s word to us
4. Give as God has prospered us
5. Partake of the memorial supper

B. The first day of the week
1. Acts 20:7 “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”
2. 1 Cor. 16:2 “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
3. Rev. 1:10 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.”

V. L — LOVE

A. Mat. 22:37-39 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”

B. God
1. 1 John 4:19 “We love him, because he first loved us.”
2. John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
3. 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

C. Others
1. Rom. 13:10 “Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”
2. 1 John 4:7,11 “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” 11 “Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”

VI. U — UPHOLD

A. Christ
1. Phi. 1:20-21 “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
2. Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

B. The truth
1. Pro. 13:13 “Buy the truth and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”
2. 1 Tim. 3:15 “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
3. 1 Cor. 13:6 “Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.”

C. The church

VII. T — Teach
A. Christianity is a taught religion. John 6:45 “It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father cometh unto me.”

B. We must be ready and willing to teach others.
1. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
2. 1 Pet. 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”
3. Heb. 5:12 “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.”

VIII. I — Increase
A. In learning
1. Pro. 1:5 “A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels”
2. Col. 1:10 “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God”

B. In righteousness 2 Cor. 9:10 “Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness”

C. In love
1. 1 The. 3:12 “And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you”
2. 1 The. 4:9-10 “But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. 10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more.”

IX. O — Obey
A. Obey God’s word
1. Heb. 5:9 “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”
2. Phi. 2:12 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling”

B. Do all of God’s commands.

X. N — Number
A. Realize our days are numbered.
1. Heb. 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”
2. Jam. 4:14 “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

3. Psa. 90:10,12 “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” 12 “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

**B. Thus, use the time wisely in living for God.**

1. Eph. 5:16 “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

2. Col. 4:5 “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”

**XI. S — SERVE**

**A. God**

1. Mat. 4:10 “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

2. Heb. 9:14 “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”

3. Heb. 12:28 “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”

**B. Others**

1. 1 Cor. 9:19 “For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.”

2. Gal. 5:13 “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”

**Conclusion:** Yes, let us make resolutions for this year, but not just make them, but live by them.