

THE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO END ALL RESOLUTIONS

the FINAL Resolution

res·o·lu·tion 1. The state or quality of being resolute; firm determination. 2. A resolving to do something.

BREAKING RESOLUTIONS

According to statistics, twenty five percent of the people who have made a New Year's Resolution will have broken it within the first seven days. By the time you read this, you may have already broken your 'resolve' that you made just a few days ago. Now, I'm certainly not wishing this to be the case in any person's life, although, the statistics usually support, at least, some truth. The trouble, however, may not lie in the breaking of the resolution as much as it does with choosing which resolution we need to make in the first place.

CHOOSING A RESOLUTION

Even as Christians we fall into this trap of wrongly identifying our own problems. We tend to judge our issues by the symptoms (being overweight, smoking, lacking motivation, anger, debt, etc.) rather than finding the root cause of the problem. Many times the root is sin, or it can be something as simple as not knowing how to break a pattern that we have learned over the years. These problems cannot be solved by simply making a decision in our own strength. If we attempt to do this by our own 'resolve,' one of two things will usually happen: either we will break our promise (which leads to condemnation), or we will replace the bad things we were doing with other bad things:)

THE SEEKING RESOLUTION

What makes us think that we know what issue to tackle anyway? (There are so many:) What if, instead of

asking ourselves (and others) what needs to be changed in our lives, we would begin this New Year by asking God what HE wants to change in us? Why not seek the opinion and help of the God who sees inside of us, the One Who created us? Why not seek the wisdom of the Wonderful Counselor, the One who is working in us, and is conforming us to the image of His Son? Why not let HIM make the call on what changes need to be made, and when. Isaiah 55:6 says, 'Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually' (1 Chron. 16:11). As Christians, we have total access to our Creator, God. If we get His wisdom on what to change, we will not only have a worthy goal, but God will supply us with all the wisdom, strength and motivation to accomplish that goal, and maintain a lasting change.

LET'S RE-VIEW THE GOD OF SOLUTIONS

There's a reason why the phrase New Year's 'Resolution' stuck instead of say, New Year's Intention, or New Year's Promise, or New Year's Assurance. As humans, we are forever 're-doing' things. We re-hash, re-act, re-state, re-apply, re-build, re-claim, re-invent...Is it any wonder that at the beginning of every year we want to find 're' solutions to 're' curring problems. I'm just saying that GOD is the GOD of Solutions. He is the ANSWER to every question and every problem.

THE END ALL RESOLUTION

If you are one of the twenty five percent who have broken their New

Year's Resolution, take heart today with these words from Jesus Himself, "Come to Me all you are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest..." So many people are just plain tired. Tired of trying and tired of failing. But because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, God has made this very personal to each one who will come to Him by faith. He says, 'Come to Me, seek Me, follow Me and I will give you rest, I will give you strength, I will give you wisdom.' But how do we seek Him? Seek God through His Word, the Bible. Seek Him in prayer, not only by speaking to Him, but also by listening in quiet solitude to what He would say to us. (Yes, God still speaks, but sometimes we are so loud that we can't hear Him.) See 1 Kings 19:12. We can seek Him through filling our homes and lives with the things of God. Always reach out to Him, draw near to Him. If all of this seeking leads to obedience to God, then all those 'symptoms' we talked about, and all those 'roots' mentioned earlier will simply dissolve into the sea of God's grace, mercy and power. 'Seeking God,' the resolution to end all resolutions.

Let's make our first resolution of this New Year to 'Seek Him' our final 'RESOLUTION' for the rest of our lives.

Something to think about as we begin this brand new year. Happy God-Seeking New Year to You!

Shalom,

Big D:)