

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

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Resolutions Demand Commitment

The coming of a new year often causes people to reflect on the past year and to make resolutions for the following one. New Year's resolutions are firm decisions of purpose made by many people in the world. Christians sing the song, "I am Resolved" as they reflect on "no longer being charmed by the world's delights, leaving my sin and strife, faithful and true each day, and leaving the paths of sin." Many people of the world make resolutions that will help them in the here and now rather than eternally. According to usa.gov.com the most popular New Year's resolutions in America are as follows: Loose weight, manage debt, save money, get a better job, get fit, get a better education, drink less alcohol, quit smoking, reduce stress, take a trip, volunteer to help others, and mail out cards for the holidays and New Year. The concept of "resolutions" are certainly found in the Bible though never from the perspective of making it only at New Years Day.

I found an interesting survey at quirkology.com that "tracked over 3000 people in 2007 attempting to achieve a range of resolutions, including losing weight, visiting the gym, quitting smoking, and drinking less. At the start of the study, 52% of participants were confident of success. One year later, only 12% actually achieved their goal." This study is interesting because it illustrates a great truth in our world and that is that people do not stay committed to goals (especially moral ones).

If you or I, as Christians, want to be eternally with the heavenly Father we must remain firmly committed to our walk of faith (Rev. 2:10). The Bible delivers many

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

We joyfully announce the restoration of **Eric and Erin Mixon**. Eric and Erin have also asked to be recognized as members of this local work that they may join hands with us as we do the work of the church in this community. Eric and Erin have three children (Elijah, Elizabeth, and Emily).

Traveling Members: Many of our members continue on the roads. Please remember them in your daily prayers.

Web Page:

Check out our web site if has been a while (Revelation Notes to be posted very soon)
www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

commandments regarding the committed Christian's walk in this life. The Apostles wrote, "*Let us **walk** becomingly, as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy*" (Rom. 13:13)... "*But I say, **walk** by the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh*" (Gal. 5:16)... "**Walk** *worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called*" (Eph. 4:1)... "*Look therefore carefully how ye **walk**, not as unwise, but as wise*" (Eph. 5:15)... "*ye should **walk** worthily of God, who calleth you into his own kingdom and glory*" (I Thess. 2:12)... "*And this is love, that we should **walk** after his commandments. This is the commandment, even as ye heard from the beginning, that ye should **walk** in it*" (II Jn. 1:6). This "**walk**" must be approached from the standpoint of having a spirit of resolve and commitment if it is to be achieved.

How can you and I have the resolve of men like the Apostle Paul? Paul went through many tribulations in life yet said he referred to them as his "*light affliction which is for the moment, working for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory...*" (II Cor. 4:17). Again, Paul said, "*I can do all things in him that strengthens me*" (Phil. 4:13). Paul always "*pressed on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 3:14) because he believed that God would fulfill His promises. Let us all resolve to be holy this day, the days to come, the new year, and as many years as the Lord sees fit to bless us with (see I Pet. 1:16). The Lord will come again to claim His own. Where will you and I be on that day? Will we be spiritually alive through a life of purpose and commitment to the Lord or will we be spiritually dead through our trespasses and sin? Today is the day to make this firm commitment to the Lord and His church. Be committed in the year 2010 to worship every first day of the week. Be committed to spending time in Bible study. Be committed to edifying your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Be committed to praying to the heavenly Father. Be a committed Christian and you will not be disappointed in this life or the life to come.

John C. Robertson

The Church

Introduction:

Bible readers are introduced to the word "church" first at Matthew 16:13ff. While dictionaries and public use of the term "church" has come to mean a "building for public worship" (AHD 273) the Bible has a much fuller identity explained. The subject of the Church of Christ is considered by many as a "**first principles**" type of study. Those who have not laid a proper foundation of knowledge regarding this subject cannot expect to move on to more weightier issues in the Bible (Heb. 6:1ff). Let us lay a proper foundation of truth in respects to God's revelation regarding the church.

I. The Identity of the Church:

- A. Ekklesia = "assembly, gathering, meeting - Ek = "out" and Klesia = "to call"
- B. The church is the "*pillar and ground of truth*" (I Tim. 3:15)
- C. The church is identified as the "kingdom of God" (I Thess. 2:12)
- D. The church (assembly of saints) are people that have been purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 2:28) and are thereby a "*kingdom of priests*" (Rev. 5:10).
- E. The Church is comprised of the elect of God (Romans 11:5; see also I Pet. 2:9).
- F. The church has as its architect (Heb. 3:1-6), foundation (Eph. 2:19-22), body (Eph. 1:22), and head (Eph. 5:22) Jesus.
- G. Seeing that Christ owns the church it is referred to as his church (see Rom. 16:16).

II. Location:

- A. The church is identified locally (I Cor. 1:2; Col. 4:16; I Thess. 1:1 etc.)
- B. The church is identified universally (Acts 9:31; Eph. 1:22).

III. The Nature of the Church / Kingdom of God:

- A. The church is eternal (II Sam. 7:13; Dan. 2:44; II Pet. 1:11).
- B. Spiritual (Jn. 18:36)

IV. How does one come to be identified as a member of the church that belongs to Christ?

- A. The "call to assemble" is the gospel message (see II Thess. 2:13ff).
- B. Those who give heed to the gospel message are identified as the church or Christians (Joel 2:32-33 / I Pet. 2:9-10).

Conclusion:

Man has doomed his own soul when applying preconceived ideas about the church to their religious service to God (see Matt. 11:11ff etc.). Many believe the church to be an institution that stands to help people get out of financial and civil trouble. Many believe the church is a benevolence society here to feed their hunger. Many believe the church should take care of their children while they work. Still others believe the church should provide secular education for their children (i.e., teach them mathematics, science, English, etc.). The church of Jesus Christ; however, is concerned with the spiritual side of man. The true church will be comprised of the elect of God and will be delivered to the Lord one day as a pure and perfect bride (see Rev. 21:9).