

New Year Resolutions

Jonathan Edwards

- ⌚ Resolved, to live with all my might while I do live.
- ⌚ Resolved, never to lose one moment of time, to improve it in the most profitable way I can.
- ⌚ Resolved, never to do anything which I should despise or think meanly of in another.
- ⌚ Resolved, never to do anything out of revenge.
- ⌚ Resolved, never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

New Year Resolutions for Youth

Author Unknown

- ⌚ I will not cater to the friendship of every youth I meet.
- ⌚ I will not exaggerate trivial experiences.
- ⌚ I will hold my temper when misunderstood or ridiculed.
- ⌚ I will not get mad over non-essentials.
- ⌚ I will not shove my blame on others.
- ⌚ I will overcome my laziness.
- ⌚ I will not look for praise.
- ⌚ I will look for the good in the person that bores me.
- ⌚ Where I have ceased to be useful, I will endeavor not to be a nuisance.

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"The study of God's Word, for the purpose of discovering God's will, is the secret discipline which has formed the greatest characters."

— J. W. Alexander

All for Good!

Gene Griffin

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

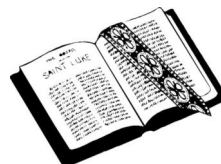
Romans 8:28

*All for good!
Precious be the thought!
But Lord there are storms
Which Thy hand hath wrought!
So Lord how can it be?
How can I see
Your Hand in this
For my good?*

*By faith we look beyond the storms
To the rainbow in the clouds.
We look by faith at the shroud,
Beyond the dark threads; Thy
pattern weaved.
It is then that our heart believed
In the working of Thy loving
Hand,
Working together all things by
Thy plan.*

*All for good?
Yes! It is true!
God is working His plan in you!
The sunshine and rain
The dark threads — our gain!
One day it shall all be plain!
All things work together for
good.*

The Bible View



A free publication from: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com

Vol.: 235

Why Preaching?

Bill Brinkworth

There's a whole world out there, professing Christian and not, that do all they can to avoid getting the preaching they should be receiving. God deems this method of hearing what He has to say through a local pastor, so important that He has called many to minister to a local "flock".

When the gathering of people listens to the preacher, here are some of the benefits that those that do not attend miss when they do not hear regular preaching:

📖 Not every preacher that goes to the pulpit is in communication with God; however, they should be. If the congregation is getting what God wants the local church to hear for that day through preaching, then when folks do not hear God's message, they are missing what they are supposed to hear!

📖 Teaching from the Word of God is usually included in

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New Beginnings

Barbara Brinkworth

Although God exists in the eternal present (*John 8:58*), man lives within the constraints of time. As such, God uses many periods of time in His Word.

He created all that is in six twenty-four hour days. He admonishes us to not let the sun go down on our wrath. Many times a season of testing was 40 days or years.

God also tells us to number our days. (*Psalms 90:12*.) One of the ways we do this is with a calendar. Because the calendar starts with January, many people use January (specifically January 1st) as a time of new beginnings. You may have heard these called New Year's resolutions.

According to Webster's 1828 dictionary, "a resolution is a fixed purpose or determination." In order to "keep" your resolutions, you must have a plan of action. Someone has said, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."

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Why Preaching?

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the sermons. When it is missed, people miss important lessons from God's Word that they would not have gotten; even if they were faithfully reading the Word of God for themselves.

Most people, unfortunately, do not read the Bible for themselves. So, without preaching, they are getting no spiritual input in their lives at all. It should not be wondered at all, without any spiritual input and mostly worldly input, why so many live God-dishonoring lives!

Preaching promotes spiritual growth in the believer. When we are saved, there is a lot of spiritual house cleaning in our lives that we must do. God knows our limits, and that we cannot change all at once. Being there for every sermon is an opportunity to grow in the things of the Lord, at the rate God desires for us.

If they do not hear the preaching of the Word of God, they will miss out on much of what God's will and direction are for their lives.

Much of preaching puts the spotlight on the listener's sins and weaknesses. The

intent of preaching is to warn the hearer of his errors and sins, so he can make changes in his life. Those that do not hear preaching continue in their sin and error and wonder why their lives are such a mess!

When people miss preaching they are missing the opportunity to be obedient to at least one of God's commands.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
Hebrews 10:25

When a believer misses preaching, many unsaved see he is missing. Those that miss church are being bad examples to the unsaved!

Preaching can also be an encouragement. In a world that does not encourage godly behavior, the only place where Christians can be encouraged if they are living the way God desires, is through preaching. Not only can preaching be a checklist of what we are doing wrong, it can be a list of what we are doing right in God's eyes.

Being amongst Christians is about the only place one will be encouraged to live for the Lord.

When a church-member is faithfully attending preaching, he is encouraging others

If you resolved to read the Bible this year, start with the New Testament. A reading schedule is available at:

www.OpenThouMineEyes.com/ReadNTt.pdf

that are also attending. Little attendance to preaching discourages those that do go. It does go through some minds at least once, "Why should I attend? So-and-so never comes. Why should I?"

If a person is unsaved, preaching may be the main way they will hear the saving Gospel in a language that they can understand. Preaching has saved and changed the lives of billions!

This world can be very hard, and God knows it. That is why He has provided a way for man to hear from Him daily through prayer, Bible reading and preaching!

New Beginnings

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Let us look at a resolution that many Christians make every year. "This year I am going to read all the way through the Bible." They begin January with their nose in Genesis. They do not have any idea how much they need to read each day; so they read until they are tired or distracted. This may go on for several weeks. By the end of January, they are only in Exodus. Now they begin to worry. It seems they still have a long way to go. Soon they are discouraged. If you ask them in March how their Bible reading is

doing, you will only get a sheepish look. They have failed again.

In order for your resolution to be successful, you will need to put some thought into how you will accomplish it. In the case of Bible reading, you might choose one of the many Bible reading schedules available. Most provide a place to check off each day's reading. This will help to ensure consistency each day.

If your resolution were to do more soul-winning or visiting, you would need to set aside a certain time each week to do it. That time would have to be reserved for only that activity. Soon people would know not to ask you to schedule anything else during that time. They would know you were committed to keeping your resolution.

New beginnings, such as New Year's resolutions, are worthy endeavors. Plan them carefully; and as you see next December approaching, you will have numbered your days successfully.

"If everybody could understand everything the Bible said, it wouldn't be God's book. Christians and theologians have studied it for forty, fifty, or sixty years, and then only began to understand it. How could a man expect to understand it by one reading?" – D. L. Moody

"Be in church every time its doors are open!"