

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 31

2023

Be Resolved

With the new year being just around the corner, many are beginning to make their New Year resolutions (i.e. they are resolving to do something). It is important to note that the phrase “to be resolved” means, “to be firmly determined to do something.” With that thought in mind, I encourage us all to be resolved spiritually in the upcoming New Year.

Be Resolved To Always Put God First

My friend, we must put God first in our lives (Matthew 6:33). If you have been neglecting to put God first in your life, you are encouraged to be resolved to put God first in your life this New Year. For Jesus informed, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind*” (Matthew 22:37). Therefore, hold on to those words of Jesus, love the Lord thy God, and be resolved to always put Him first in your life.

Be Resolved To Attend Every Service

In Psalm 122:1, David declared, “*I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.*” Brethren, may we all possess the same attitude as David, and may we all be excited about, and look forward to every opportunity that we have to come together to serve the Lord this New Year. Be resolved to be one who attends every service, and resolve to serve the Lord with gladness (Psalm 100:2) in the upcoming New Year.

Be Resolved To Be An Encouragement To Others

Friend, whether we realize it or not, we all need encouragement. You see, it is very important that we all diligently strive to encourage one another, lest we become hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:12-13). Therefore, let’s be resolved to be an encouragement to others this New Year,

and let’s always pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another (Romans 14:19) in the upcoming New Year.

Be Resolved To Search The Scriptures Daily

The apostle Paul informed, “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Romans 10:17). You see, the Bible is God’s all inspired word (2 Timothy 3:16), and as Paul said, God’s word is the source of faith. Therefore, be resolved to imitate the noble Bereans of old, and search the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11) this upcoming New Year.

Be Resolved To Pray Daily

Prayer is the avenue we take to communicate with God, and my beloved brethren, we always ought to pray and not lose heart (Luke 18:1). So knowing that, let’s all be resolved to pray daily this New Year, or as Paul put it, “*pray without ceasing*” (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and “*continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving*” (Colossians 4:2).

Be A Soul-Winner For Jesus

In Matthew 9:37, Jesus said, “*The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.*” You see, the world is full of sin-sick souls that are in need of the gospel of Christ. So, let’s all be resolved to share the precious gospel of Christ with others this New Year, remembering that it is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe (Romans 1:16). Therefore, be a soul-winner for Jesus this New Year, and never forget, “*...he who wins souls is wise*” (Proverbs 11:30).

Be Resolved To Go To Heaven

Contrary to the belief of some, heaven is for real, and in Matthew 25:34, Jesus revealed that heaven was prepared from the foundation of the world. However, we must all understand that heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Therefore, may we all this New Year be resolved to do the will of our Father in heaven (Matthew 7:21). Be resolved to always press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). For by doing so, someday your citizenship will forever be in heaven (Philippians 3:20).

My friend, these are just a few things that I encourage us all to be firmly determined to do, not only in the upcoming New Year, but also for the rest of our lives. So, once more, I encourage you to be resolved.

✍️ Brad Phillips

The End Is Better Than The Beginning

“The end of a matter is better than its beginning; patience of spirit is better than haughtiness of spirit.” (Eccl.7:8)

As we end this year, will you do anything differently this coming year? Same routines? Same schedules? Same habits? Same financial picture? Same spiritual picture? Same type of books read? Same friends to hang out with? Or, will you put a stake in the ground and determine that this coming year will be different? More spirituality? More involvement with my church family? More reaching out? More faith? More time for family? Better saving financially? Better spiritual habits? Better care of your body? A better year?

We often call such things, “resolutions” meaning we have “resolved” to do things. But often, our first of the year resolutions last about a month and they are gone. Back to the old ways, old habits and old thoughts. Eventually these add up to a lifetime and that defines our life.

I have found that the best diet in the world is the mirror. When a person is tired of the way they look, they will do something. The best financial plans is your bank statement. When you are tired of living paycheck to paycheck, you will do something. The best spiritual plan is Sunday - when you are tired of giving lip service to the God that loves you so much, you’ll start making changes. The motivation is I want to do better. I want to be better.

The end is better than the beginning...Let’s make it so, by living for Jesus every day.

✍ Roger Shouse

God’s Plan of Salvation

Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)

Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9-10)

Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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