

“I Am Resolved”

Luke 16:4

Introduction:

- A. A new year, a new century and new millennium.
 - 1. We are impressed with the thought of time.
 - a. Not important to God, because he has all of it. (2 Pet. 3:8).
 - b. Very important to man, because he has so little of it (Job. 14:1,2; Eph. 5:13)
 - 2. A time to take stock.
 - a. Of our blessings – “thou crownest the year with thy goodness” (Psa. 65:11)
 - b. Of our church work – the progress or lack of it.
 - c. Of our personal lives – for better or for worse.
 - 3. A time for making resolutions.
- B. Three New Year’s resolutions we can make to benefit us and those around us.

Discussion:

I. “I Am Resolved” to Be Better.

- A. By laying aside weights of past (Heb. 12:1; 1 Pet. 2:1)
 - 1. Lukewarmness (Rev. 3:15, 16)
 - 2. Worldliness (Mk. 4:19)
- B. By constantly improving ourselves (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet 3:18)
- C. By constantly improving our more important skills (cf. Heb. 5:13)
 - 1. Participation in church work.
 - 2. Participation in family responsibilities – Husbands, wives, parents, children.
 - 3. Resisting the devil (Jas. 4:7) – Farmer’s fight with stinginess.
 - 4. A great sculptor’s answer: “What is your best stature?” – “The next one.”

II. “I Am Resolved” to Be Happier.

- A. By making up our minds to be happy.
 - 1. Someone said, “One is about as happy as he makes us his mind to be.”
 - 2. Keep minds occupied with good thoughts (Phil. 4:8).
- B. By turning to Lord more (Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Pet. 5:7; Matt. 6:33,34)
- C. By eliminating “happiness robbers.”
 - 1. Envy, jealousy, resentment.
 - 2. Covetousness or greed
 - 3. Hatred.
 - 4. Evil suspicions
 - 5. Chronic fault-finding.
 - 6. Over sensitivity

III. “I Am Resolved” to Be Meeker.

- A. Meekness is not weakness.
 - 1. Moses (Num. 12:3)
 - 2. Christ (Matt. 11:29; 2 Cor. 10:1)
- B. Meekness is wilful submission of ourselves to another.
 - 1. The opposite of arrogance and self-willed.
 - 2. Submission to the will of God in obedience.
 - 3. Submission to all legitimate authority (Eph. 5:21ff)
 - 4. Submission to one another (1 Pet. 5:5)

Conclusion:

- A. Why not resolve to enter the new year meekly obeying God?
- B. Why not obey him in baptism or in being restored?

