

Did you know that making **New Year's Resolutions**
goes back over **3,000 years** to the Ancient **Babylonians**

For 3,000 yrs people have been saying
THIS YEAR I'm gonna **STOP SMOKING** & **LOSE SOME WEIGHT**

& - for **3,000 yrs** - **New Year's Resolutions** - have been **FAILING**

So . . . I want to talk about a **Resolution** today

BUT NOT a "**New Year's Resolution**"
Instead - a "**LIFE'S Resolution**"

Let's Pray

If you **have Put** your **Faith** in **Jesus Christ** as Your **Savior**
If you **have Received** **Jesus** as **Lord** of your **life**

Then **John Ch 1** says – You have been **BORN AGAIN**

NOT with a **Physical Birth**
BUT with a **New Spiritual Birth** – that **comes** from God

& **IN** this new **Spiritual Birth**

GOD has **ACCOMPLISHED ALL** that you need

For your **SALVATION** - from the Penalty of Sin

For your **TRANSFORMATION** – in this Life

For your **GLORIFICATION** - in your Eternal Life with God

God has actually ACCOMPLISHED ALL that we Need
IN all of those Areas - ON OUR BEHALF

God has PROVIDED ALL that we need
For us - To LIVE a New Life in Jesus Christ

God has ACCOMPLISHED it ALL
& God has PROVIDED it ALL

& YET – there is Equally – an OUR PART- PART

The Our-Part Part – Is a RESOLUTION

NOT a New Year's Resolution
But a LIFE'S RESOLUTION

NOT a CYCLICAL Resolution
NOT a Bi-POLAR Resolution (which is on today, & off tomorrow)

But a Rock-Solid - ALL-IN – No Matter What -
Absolute – Life's RESOLUTION

The word Resolution Means:

A Determination

A Decidedness

A Purposefulness

& THAT is what it TAKES – to LIVE in a "Life's Resolution"
To Know & Follow Jesus Christ

Unfortunately - I'm afraid - The **Need** for a "**LIFE'S RESOLUTION**"
In our Following of Jesus

May **NOT** be **made CLEAR ENOUGH** to **MANY people**
who **initially** make a **Decision** to **Receive Christ**

The "**God Has Accomplished it All**" Part
& the "**God Has Provided it All**" Part

THOSE parts are **Usually** made **VERY CLEAR**
Because those are the **parts** - we **love to HEAR**

And - **God HAS - Accomplished it All**
& **God HAS - Provided it All**

BUT - We **Absolutely** have a "**Part**" - in **APPROPRIATING**
All that **God** has **ACCOMPLISHED** - **For us**

We have a **ROLE** – In **POSSESSING** (*in a Practical Way*)
what **God** has **ACCOMPLISHED** for us (*in a Positional Way*)

& **Our Part** (our Role) – Is The "**Life's Resolution**" Part

It is **living** a **DETERMINED, DECIDED, PURPOSEFUL** Life
of **Knowing** and **Following** Jesus

The **Truth** is - the **ONLY Commitment 'Option'** – **Jesus** Offers
Is the **FULL** - '**LIFE'S RESOLUTION**' Option

ALL 12 Apostles – LIVED OUT

The FULL - LIFE'S Resolution Option

But Certainly the "Life's Resolution"

That we have the MOST Information on in the NT

Is THAT of the Apostle Paul

& His Life's Resolution - is found in PHIL CH 3 (turn there)

Paul actually had everything in his life - ALL "RIGHT"
BEFORE he realized his Desperate NEED for Christ

& He shares ALL that was "RIGHT" with his Life in

Philippians 3:5–6 (NLT)

5 I was circumcised when I was eight days old (legitimate Jewish birth). I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin — a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.

6 I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church (the highest level of religious loyalty). And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

By APPEARANCE (on the outside)

Paul didn't seem to have ANY NEED in his life

Right up until that Crucial Moment

When Paul - ENCOUNTERED Jesus Christ
on the Road to Damascus

& his Life changed - Forever

& It was there - face down in the Dirt

That **Paul** made his **Commitment**
To make **Jesus Christ** - **LORD** of His **LIFE**

Have you done that?

Have you made that **Commitment**
To make **Jesus Christ** the **LORD** of **YOUR Life** ?

***If So - - What Kind of a Resolution have you made –
following that Commitment?***

IF You've had a **Rocky Start** - to your **life** with **Christ**

Or if you've **Experienced** that **DUAL LIFE**
Of Living the **NEW Life** – then **OLD Life** – Then **NEW Life**, etc

It's **NOT** because God **HASN'T ACCOMPLISHED** (*on your behalf*)
ALL that is **necessary** for you to **POSSESS** that New Life

It's **NOT** because God **HASN'T PROVIDED**
ALL that is **necessary** for you to **LIVE** that New Life

It is **Almost Certainly** – a **Life's RESOLUTION** Problem

MEANING – It's a Problem with
Determination, Decidedness, & Purposefulness

We **Basically See** – **TWO Types** of **People**
who **Make Commitments** to Christ

One Person - MAKES a Commitment to Christ

Then **FOLLOWS** it with a **Genuine - Life's Resolution**

& you **SEE the Evidence** of **Jesus** Christ

TRANSFORMING their **life**

A **2nd Person - MAKES a Commitment to Jesus Christ**

But **NEVER** makes a Genuine **Life's Resolution**

& we **can Watch** that **2nd person's - Commitment to Christ**

AND their **LIFE in Christ** - - - **BOTH - Fade Away**

We **seen it over** & **over** again

The **Apostle Paul DID MAKE** - an **ALL-IN - Life's Resolution**

& we **have it recorded** - in **Phil Ch 3**

When the Apostle Paul REALIZED

His **True NEED** for Jesus Christ

& the **True WORTHLESSNESS** of his Own Efforts

He says in - Philippians 3:7 (NLT)

7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.

Paul **REALIZED** - What he was **Trusting in** – **or Chasing**

Might actually be **WORTHLESS**

compared to **KNOWING & FOLLOWING Christ**

PAUL SAYS: the things I once thought were valuable, I now consider worthless - because of what Christ has done in me

& then - in V.8 - He Further Clarifies his Life's Resolution

Philippians 3:8(a) (NLT)

8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord . . .

Have you heard of "Values Clarification" ??

Values Clarification is basically

**Deciding What is MOST Important to you
then Making Decisions - BASED on what is Most Important to you**

A **Life's Resolution to KNOW & FOLLOW Jesus Christ – is a
Values Clarification that sets the ultimate direction of your life**

& **HERE** is the **Ultimate** "**Values Clarification**" for a **Christ-Follower**

(again) Philippians 3:8(a) (NLT)

8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord . . .

When we come to the Realization

That **NOTHING** in this world - **ultimately** can **COMPARE**
to the **Value** of **KNOWING Jesus Christ**

**THEN – We are "Well On Our Way"
to making a **Genuine** "**Life's Resolution**"**

& **THEN** - we **start** making **Life's Decisions**
BASED ON our **Life's Resolution**

Which is Exactly what we **see** the **Apostle Paul** doing here

Cont'g - Philippians 3:8(b)-9(a) (NLT)

8. . . For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him.

The word **Discarded** means to "**Willingly Throw Overboard**"

Paul is saying – I have "**Willingly Thrown Overboard**"

Anything & Everything – that may **KEEP ME**
from **GAINING Christ** - & **Becoming ONE** with Him

THAT is a Genuine 'Life's Resolution'

& then (v.8) – Paul makes it EVEN CLEARER

HE says, **I have counted everything else as GARBAGE, so that I can gain Christ and become one with him**

Paul's talking about OTHER things in this life

That He may've **PUT** his **TRUST In**

That He may've **PUT** his **CONFIDENCE In**

& he says - COMPARED to the VALUE of GAINING Christ
& Becoming ONE with Him . . .

. . . anything else I would grasp for (or hold on to) in this life - is like GARBAGE

THIS - is a **Life's Resolution**
that is **Determined, Decided, & Unshakable**

NOTHING COMPARES to The **SURPASSING VALUE**
of **KNOWING** Jesus Christ & **Becoming ONE with Him**

So – **after reminding us** in the **rest** of **V.9**

that our **Righteousness before God**
can **ONLY COME** thru **FAITH** in **Jesus Christ**

Paul then - **ENCAPSULATES** his **Life's Resolution**
in **FIVE Powerful WORDS** - at the Beginning of **V.10**

These 5 Words - are My LIFE'S' Vs

Philippians 3:10(a) (NLT)
10 I want to know Christ . . .

I want to . . . REALLY Know Jesus Christ

I **want** to **Know** Him, **PERSONALLY**
I **want** to **Know** Him, **EXPERIENTIALLY**

I want to KNOW Christ !!

The **GREEK Word** used here for "**KNOW**"
DESCRIBES perfectly - **What** Paul is **talking about**

The word Paul uses here for **KNOW** - is **GINOSKO**

& **GINOSKO** is best defined as:

An ever-increasing, relational, experiential knowledge

Paul **says** - **whatever** I was **holding onto** **BEFORE**
I **WILLINGLY DISCARDED** it

In order to **GAIN** - *An ever-increasing, relational,
experiential knowledge of Jesus Christ*

THAT is taking **FULL INVENTORY** of your **LIFE** - & **Saying** . . .

WHATEVER I'm putting my **HOPE IN** right now

I'm **THROWING IT OUT**

In **EXCHANGE** for - *An ever increasing, experiential,
relationship with Jesus Christ !!*

& then – As **V.10** cont's - **Paul ELABORATES**
on What it **MEANS** - to **KNOW Jesus** at this level

(again) Philippians 3:10 (NLT)

10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death,

THIS is the **LIFE'S RESOLUTION** that **drove Paul**
every **year** / **month** / **week** / **day**

*I want an ever increasing, experiential,
relationship with Jesus – in ALL circumstances of life*

*I want to experience the same mighty power
that raised Jesus from the dead*

***AND - I want to suffer with him,
Even to the point – of sharing in his death***

This is an **Absolute Determination** - to **KNOW Jesus Christ**
NO MATTER WHAT !!

To KNOW HIM

In The **Power of the Resurrection** - MOMENTS
& in the **Fellowship of Suffering** - MOMENTS

I want to **KNOW JESUS** - In Every **MOMENT** – of My Life

& then Philippians 3:11 says (NLT)

***11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection
from the dead!***

Paul's **NOT QUESTIONING** his **Own Resurrection** here

He's **Saying** - **AT ALL COSTS** - **NOT MATTER** what **The Path**

One way or **another** – It **DOES NOT Matter** -

As long as **I Experience** the **Resurrection from the Dead**

Paul's saying - the **Circumstances** - & the **Path** of this Life
Are **NOT** His **PRIMARY** Concern

What IS his **Primary** Concern – is **Knowing Christ** - &

Becoming ONE with Him - On **WHATEVER PATH** this **life** brings

As long as I'm **On my way** to **SHARING His Resurrection** w/ Him
Then **everything** is going to **work out** – **JUST FINE!**

& then – Paul makes it clear

Our **Life's Resolution** is **Meant** to **ALWAYS**
be **DRIVING Us FORWARD** in our Walk with Christ

He says in Philippians 3:12 (NLT)

12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

Paul says – I **haven't ARRIVED** – I'm **not THERE**

But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me

I **LOVE** that line!

Listen please – **Jesus** Christ has **FIRST POSSESSED you**
for an **Eternal Purpose**

But **YOU** must also **TAKE POSSESSION** of **that**
for which **Christ Jesus** first **Possessed You**

To Do that – You MUST PRESS-ON
& **NOT** be **TAKEN OUT** by *the Enemy*
& **NOT** be **SIDE-LINED** by *Sin*

We have GOT to be **PRESSING-ON**
ALL the **WAY** to the **FINISH LINE**

To **RECEIVE** the **Heavenly Prize** –
For which **God** – **Thru Christ** – Is **Calling us**

Look at the Incredible SUMMARY Vs's from Paul in

Philippians 3:13–14 (NLT)

13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward (straining) to what lies ahead,

14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

We are NOT DONE – We have NOT ARRIVED

But This ONE THING we WILL DO

Forgetting the PAST

& PRESSING FORWARD to what Lies Ahead

We Will PRESS ON - to Reach the End of the Race

& Receive the Heavenly Prize

for which God – Thru Christ Jesus – Is Calling us

THAT is a *Determined, Decided, Purposeful - COMMITMENT*

To KNOW CHRIST – More & More

In Every Circumstance - & Every Situation

& to KEEP PRESSING ON

to Possess that for which

Christ First Possessed US

THAT is a *Life's Resolution !!*

The Greatest thing you can do in this life

Is to **Make** a ***Determined, Decided, Purposeful,***
Life Long **RESOLUTION**

to **KNOW CHRIST** – More & More
& to **Possess** that **for which** He First **Possessed You**

THAT is a **Life's Resolution – to Follow Christ**

& I pray you would **Make that Commitment** – **Right Now**

Let's Pray

If you **just MADE** a **Life's Resolution Commitment**

I **want** to **give you** some **INITIAL Encouragement**

FIRST - Following Jesus at **THIS Determined Level**
Is a **DAILY COMMITMENT**

Your Life's Resolution – Occurs – EACH DAY

EVERY DAY - you can **KNOW JESUS BETTER**

& EVERY DAY - you can **press on to possess**
that for which Christ Jesus first possessed you

You **CANNOT LIVE** this **Life's Resolution**
ONCE or TWICE a Week → → →

& a Bi-POLAR Resolution is the Worst of all

**Where you're Committed to Christ SOME days
& Committed to your SELF & the WORLD - OTHER days**

The FIRST Encouragement is

You have LEARN to LIVE your "Life's Resolution"
on a DAILY Basis

**SECOND - You need someone to HELP you LEARN
HOW to Follow Christ - Each Day**

Your Life's Resolution Requires - DISCIPLESHIP

**Discipleship means simply
"Learning to Follow Jesus"**

You have GOT to put yourself in an Environment
where you are LEARNING – HOW to Follow Jesus

You've GOT to Become an Active PART
of a Small Group of Believers

Who are HELPING One Another
Follow Jesus - TOGETHER

Around here – we call those groups – Discipleship Groups

→ → →

& We would LOVE to HELP you
get connected to a Discipleship Group

& thru that group – You can Learn
HOW to LIVE in your Life's Resolution - DAILY

& - If you are listening or watching
as part of the Word-By-Mail Family (or the CCN family)

I would encourage you to watch or listen to THREE series

- *Alone With God*
 - *Why Discipleship*
 - *Growing in The Holy Spirit*
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-

Guys – God LOVES YOU Enough
to send his SON to Die In Your Place

& then to Send You His Holy Spirit – to LIVE inside you
For the Power to LIVE for Him Every Day

God HAS Accomplished it ALL
God HAS Provided ALL you Need

YOUR Part – is to make a Life's Resolution

TO KNOW HIM – in Every Circumstance in Life
& to POSSESS, what He has POSSESSED You For

Let's Pray again