

The Lord's Resolve, Our Resolution

Phil 1:6

1. Intro

2. Christian, God is resolved to save you.

- a. He who began a good work in you . . .
 - i. The Lord, not you, initiated your salvation.

- b. . . . will bring it to completion . . .
 - i. God is not content to merely save you from the penalty of sin. His resolve is to transform you into the image of his son, little by little, day by day, the sovereign God is carrying that work onward.

- c. . . . at the day of Christ Jesus. . .
 - i. The destiny of the Christian was tied to the destiny of Jesus Christ.

- d. I am sure of this . . .
 - i. Paul's confidence in the salvation of the Philippian Christians not grounded in the Philippian Christian. Paul's confidence was grounded in the Father's unrelenting commitment to glorify his Son.

ii. Followers of Jesus have always been instructed to take the long view.

iii.

3. If God is resolved to save us, our resolution ought to be to follow him.

a. Our resolution ought to be to trace our lives along the outline of Christ's life.

i. Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

1. For the Christian, joy is not an option. It is commanded.

ii. ² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh

1. Putting confidence in your flesh will rob you of joy, godly robust joy.

iii. —⁴ although I have reasons for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day; of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; regarding the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ regarding zeal, persecuting the church; regarding the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.

iv. ⁷ But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ.

1. Everything that brought Paul esteem in the eyes of his world, he considered to be a net loss.

- v. ⁸ More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ
- vi. ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith.
1. That in the final judgment, his righteousness would come from Christ and Christ alone. If “anything else” got in the way of that then he wanted nothing to do with that “anything else.”
 2. Paul understood that a righteousness from God would last until the Day of Judgment. But a righteousness that comes from the law only lasts until the next sin.
- vii. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.
1. Paul’s life resolution was to trace his life along the outlines of Christ’s life.
 2. What is it to know Christ?
 3. What is it to know the power of Christ’s resurrection?
 4. What is it to participate in Christ’s sufferings?
 5. What is it to be like Christ in his death?