



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
Tel: 617-489-2498

Pastor
ROLLAND C. STARR
Editor

RESOLUTIONS WORTH MAKING!

January - February 2005

Here are five resolutions that Jonathan Edwards, the great New England preacher, made early in his life and by which he sought to abide throughout his life and ministry. You will note that each one has a Scriptural basis; and of course, the Bible should be the basis for the Christian's actions in every area of life. **RESOLVED:** To live with all my might while I do live. **"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest. Ecc.9:10. RESOLVED:** Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I can. **"For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Jas. 4:14. RESOLVED:** Never to do anything out of revenge. **"Avenge not yourselves... Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." RESOLVED:** Never to do anything which I should despise in another. **"All things whatsoever ye would that men do unto you, do ye even so to them..." Matt.7:14. RESOLVED:** Never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life. **"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. I Pet. 4:7.** These resolutions, faithfully kept day in and day out, will make any Christian a more useful one in the work of Christ.

There's nothing wrong with making resolutions. Some say we are not to make vows or promises. No! No! What we are not to do is to make vows and not keep them! Ecc.5:4, 5 says, **"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay it."** The most important factor is the desire and effort to keep them. Too many are made by professed Bible believers, that are broken as quickly as they are made. A resolution every Christian ought to make us live only for the glory of God (I Cor.10:31), to totally please the Lord, to live that you may hear Him say, **"Well done..."** It is well illustrated by the story of Benny Locke, an engine driver for the Lackawanna Railroad for fifty-seven years. One day his train was 25 minutes late as he started up the Pocono Mountains. He said, "I couldn't gain a minute on the way up, but just after we dipped over the top, things began to break just right for me. It was a beautiful day, with the air perfectly clear, and we almost flew down the mountain. I just held her steady and let her go. At last the old station where we were going loomed up ahead, and as we pulled in, I looked at my watch, and we were just on the dot. As I stood wiping the sweat from my face, there was a tap of a cane on the outside of my engine, and looking out, I saw the president of the railroad all smiles, and he said to me, 'A very good run, Sir; a very good run!' That meant more to me than anything that could have happened in the world. And, brother, when I make my last run and pull into that Great Terminal up there in heaven, if I can just hear Jesus say, 'A good run, Sir; a very good run,' the trials and struggles down here won't matter." Dear child of God, won't you resolve today to live in such a way that when you meet the Lord He will be able to say, **"Well done thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of Thy Lord."**

CORNERSTONE NEWS

BIBLE SCHOOL SOCIAL.

This is always a great time of blessing. It is a time when the whole family can enjoy a good time of fellowship together.

We urge you to join us **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2005 - 7:00 PM.**



DO YOUR FRIENDS A FAVOR! Give them a year's subscription to the *Cornerstone Challenge*.

It is only \$3 per year (about one-third our cost).

Why not provide this helpful paper for your friends.

AN EYE-OPENING LETTER! From a couple in Quebec: "Dear Pastor Starr: Every time your News Letter comes to our door, it is like a breath of fresh air. It is like a cup of cool water in a dry and thirsty land. We always read it with great relish. We read this letter like a person bereft for many years, without any news of the world at large. In our case, it is the ever-present world, whereby we are the ones that are peculiar...We do not go to any church. There is no church out there for us that adhere to your preaching, Pastor Starr. For Robert and me, you are the Evangelist - there is none else except the reading of the Bible...only the King James Version - none other will do. Please accept this gift of money, which is long overdue. We have been feeding on your good sermons for such a long time and we've never given a penny. Please never stop sending us the Good News. I am sure that God in Heaven approves.

-Yours Faithfully... Robert and Antonia ---"

We do not print this for any good there is in us (for there is none). In fact, we hesitated to print it. We print it to show how desperate it is to find a good Fundamental Baptist Church. It is not uncommon for me to get letters from people in the United States, even from such a large city as Chicago, saying as far as they know there is no true fundamental, KJV, separated, doctrinally sound, Fundamental Baptist Church. You may have to drive 30, 40 miles or more to a sound Fundamental Baptist Church. That's not too difficult today with super-highways, etc. Many do it every day for work; why not for God? Ask God to send a sound preacher of the Word of God (KJV only, not one that corrects it). If you have a truly good, Biblically sound, separated, KJV church, thank God for it, and support it!

YOUTH CORNER

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE? Young person (older ones too), what is really important to you? I read sometime ago about a young man who had been killed in a motor-cycle accident. The Harley-Davidson bike he was riding was buried with him. His sobbing mother explained: "It was his whole life." How tragic, all he really cared about in this life was a motorcycle. Yet, there are multitudes whose purpose or goal in life is no better. Maybe your goal in life is to make money, to be popular, sports, pleasure, etc. Let me ask you, "What is your life?" God says, "**For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.**" Jas. 4:14. While you may not think so, you are here but for a short time, especially in the light of eternity. The only life worth living is the Christian life! That is, to be born again through faith in the death and resurrection of Christ for your sins. The Bible says, "**In Him (Christ) is life...**" If you will trust Him, he will give you abundant life, eternal life! The Apostle Paul could say, "**To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**" The Christian life is truly a life worth living - for time and eternity! Ask Him so save you right now. He said, "**Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out.**" If you trust Christ as your Savior, you will be ready to both live and die!

THE BOOZE BAR.

A bar to heaven, a door to hell,

Whoever named it, named it well.

A bar to manliness and wealth,

A door to want and broken health.

A bar to honor, pride and fame,

A door to want and grief and shame.

A bar to hope and a bar to prayer,

A door to darkness and despair.

A bar to honored and useful life,

A door to brawling and senseless strife.

A bar to all that's true and brave,

A door to every drunkard's grave.

A bar to joy that home imparts,

A door to tears and an aching heart.

A bar to heaven, a door to hell,

Whoever named it, named it well.

AN IMPOSSIBILITY!

At the trial of Jesus, Pilate's wife said, "*Have thou nothing to do with that just man...*" It is impossible to have nothing to do with Jesus! Jesus said, "*And I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me.*" John 12:32

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

CHURCH DRESS CODE. As soon as you say the Church has a dress code people (Christians) talk about legalism, extremism, etc. But God told Timothy, a pastor, to see that the women "**adorn themselves in modest apparel.**" What is modest? Decent! Appropriate! Is clothing that attracts the attention of men in a sensual way appropriate? Recently, I had to visit a prison and I was given an Information Sheet. It said, "*Dress Code: Clothing must be appropriate... No shorts, halter-tops, sleeveless attire, tank tops, no bare shoulders, no short skirts...*" This is for a visit to a prison! This is the third prison where I have seen basically the same requirements. How is it that the unconverted have more common sense than those who call themselves God's children? Don't Fundamental Baptist preachers understand anything about "**the lust of the flesh.**"? We have a dress code and we endeavor to live by it - it is not easy! But we are sinning against God's command if we do not have "**modest apparel.**"

THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL WORKS. Well, it works for Paul Crouch and his Trinity Broadcasting Network. The following is taken from the *Los Angeles Times* (via *TBC* 9/28/04). Crouch has long preached that giving to TBN will bring great financial blessings. The more you give, the more God will reward you. Crouch said during a Telethon last November, "He'll give you thousands, hundreds of thousands. He'll even give millions and billions of dollars." Crouch has done rather well with his "prosperity gospel." TBN collects more than \$120 million a year from viewers [more than any other TV ministry]. The donor's help fund generous salaries for Crouch (\$403,700 a year) and his wife, Jan, (\$361,000) and an array of perks, including a TBN-owned jet and 30 homes across the country, among them a pair of Newport Beach mansions and a ranch in Texas. Ed. How anybody could think that this sort of thing is of God I do not know. Nonetheless, he and others like him, (Benny Hinn, Copeland, Price, etc.) do not lack for followers. Yes, Crouch works the "prosperity gospel" for all it's worth, and it is worth a lot to him.

SALVATION NEW EVANGELICAL STYLE. *TBC* (11/04/04) reported: "Messianic Muslims, who continue to read the Koran, visit the mosque and say daily prayers but accept Christ as their Savior, are products of a strategy which is being tried in several countries." A YWAM (Youth With A Mission) staff writer wrote: "They continue a life of following the Islamic requirements... besides getting together as a fellowship of Muslims who acknowledge Christ as the source of God's mercy for them. YWAM is adopting this approach in

India, where a team is working with a Hindu holy man." This reveals how far afield the New Evangelicals have gone. You cannot serve Allah and Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "**Ye cannot serve God and mammon,**" and "**No man can serve two masters...**" Islam utterly rejects the Trinity and says emphatically that Jesus is not God! This shows what happens when a *little* compromise is acceptable - after awhile it will be total apostasy. This is not new; many in the New Evangelical camp have long accepted Messianic Jews and practicing Roman Catholics as true believers in Christ. One wonders how such thinking could come from a saved person. I for one do not believe it can. "**There is One God and One Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.**"

A SIGN OF THE TIMES! *World* (11/27/04) reported an interview with Peter Singer. Singer is an Australian who came to the U.S. a couple of years ago to teach at Princeton which is no doubt the leading Presbyterian college and seminary in the world. He says any kind of "fully consensual" sexual behavior involving two people, or two hundred, is ethically fine. Any activity is ethical as long as it is consensual. He believes in infanticide of born children who are ill or who have siblings in need of body parts. He sees nothing wrong with children bred simply for spare parts. Singer sees no essential difference between animals and humans. For example, given a choice between keeping alive an adult chimpanzee and a human infant, the chimp should beat out the human infant. He scorns attempts to set up standards of good and evil that go beyond utilitarianism. You may say he is just some small-time kook who will pass and his ideas will die with him. *The New York Times* explaining how his views trickle down to the general populace, noted that "no other living philosopher has had this kind of influence." *The New England Journal of Medicine* said he has had "more success in effecting changes in acceptable behavior than any philosopher since Bertrand Russell." *The New Yorker* called him "the most influential philosopher alive." Singer just represents one more step in the depravity of a society that already murders babies, allows and promotes homosexual behavior, homosexual marriages, unlimited pornography on the internet, euthanasia and more. One wonders how it can be much longer until we hear the "**shout, the voice of the archangel and the trump of God.**"

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? The U.S. Post Office has put out a stamp commemorating an Islamic Holy Day! This is incredible, indecent, indescribable, indefensible and idiotic! How any self-respecting American could use one is beyond me. Christianity is out - Islam is in.

CRITICS – WHO NEEDS THEM?

It's easy to be a critic; I guess that is why there are so many of them. Unfortunately, you can find them in the church as well as in other places. In this world, it seems there will always be those who contribute little of a constructive nature; their talent is destructive. Spurgeon once told of a man who opened up a Fish Market. One of the first things he did was have a big sign painted for over the door. It read: Fresh Fish Today. It wasn't too long until a *friend* came along and said to the owner, "Why do you need such a sign? You don't need the word 'Fresh.' After all, a man of your integrity wouldn't sell anything but fresh fish." So the owner took out the word Fresh. A little later another person stopped in and remarked: "You really don't need the word 'Today' in your sign. Everybody knows that it is today!" So down came the word Today. Then, a third *friendly* critic stopped to congratulate the man on his new business. Before leaving he said, "By the way, I don't see why you need the word 'Fish' over the place. I could smell your fish a block away." So, out went the word Fish. My friend, never mind the critics. If you ever accomplish anything in this world, especially for God, you will have plenty of critics and some of them will no doubt be in the church. Benjamin Franklin said, "Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain - and most fools do." Someone else remarked, "Those who can, do; those who can't, criticize." The folks who like to give you a piece of their mind are usually the ones who can least afford it!

Cornerstone Baptist Church

54 Brighton Street

P.O. Box 438

Belmont, MA 02478

www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org

DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR!

The following is from *TBC* - (11/2004). "Question: Hank Hanegraaff states that 'All the promises to Israel have already been fulfilled according to Joshua 21:43-45.' Is that correct?" "Answer: 'Absolutely not. Even a superficial reading of the passage, along with minimal biblical knowledge and a little common sense, reveals the fallacy of this claim by so many who believe that the church has replaced Israel! Josh. 23:43-45 simply declares all God's promises to Israel about giving her the land of Canaan had been fulfilled...." Ed. Hank Hanegraaff calls himself the *Answer Man*. What arrogance! God says, "**If a man thinketh himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.**" To say as many do, that the church is "spiritual" Israel, is to show one's ignorance of proper interpretation of God's Word. The Answer Man has said that the harlot riding the beast in Rev. 17 is not Rome (Roman Catholicism). He believes many Catholics are saved. He certainly has the answers - most of the ones I have seen are all wrong! Not only were there many prophecies to be fulfilled after Joshua's day, over three thousand years later, there are still scores if not hundreds of God's promises to Israel yet to be fulfilled. He apparently believes that God breaks His promises, for the Lord gave the land of Canaan to Israel forever and promised David's throne would be forever. It seems to me the only reason a man like this can gather a following is the great wave of illiteracy concerning the Word of God that's come over the evangelical crowd.