



RESOLUTIONS WORTH MAKING!

Challenge Special January 2017

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. ~Ecclesiastes 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.” ~James 4:14.** **RESOLVED:** Never to do anything out of revenge. **“Avenge not yourselves... Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.” ~Romans 12:19.** **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...” ~Matthew 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 are at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. ~I Peter 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! Ecclesiastes 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 is 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.”**