

Resolutions

By Roy Goodlet

When we hear the word "resolutions" we usually associate a New Year with it, although I am not sure many people make resolutions any more. This goes along with today's thinking in society where many people do not consider themselves in need of any resolutions other than weight loss. As a minister I hear many resolutions of repentance that are future oriented, and I especially hear them in the hospitals and the jails. "Some day!" But God hears many more resolutions than I do. He hears, "Oh, God, someday I am going to rid myself of this sin. I really mean it God." If God were to speak directly to such a person, I don't think He would be as nice as me. He might come right out and say, "Words mean nothing to me!"

Let's look at two people in the Bible who had resolutions to make, and whether or not they carried them out. Thomas made a resolution never to doubt Jesus and His power again. Then listen to the promise Jesus gave Thomas. This promise means everything to you and me. *"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* (John 20:29) Make it your resolution to not doubt God is working in your life.

Then there was Samson. He played around and disobeyed God, and it cost him big time, but one thing we can learn from Samson is that it is never too late to make a resolution with God. His resolution was to make up for his disobedience, but he found that once a person disobeys God it is hard to make up for their mistake. You may have made vows to God such as, "I believe Jesus is the Son of God." Or, your vow might have been, "Till death do us part. For better, for worse." Don't listen to those who say, "Sinning is alright if you don't get caught," or "It is the accepted thing to do today." You are already caught. God is not blind and He is no dummy! As for the second part, accepted by whom? Who, another sinner? Get real! Do you think you will be able to stand before God, and say, "Well, Joe Blow said it was okay?"

God made His resolution to love us long before any man ever walked on the face of this earth, but His love is not forced upon us. This means there is another resolution that has been made by God for those who do not accept His love. John 3:18, *"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."* When you and I make a resolution it is usually because we want to change something about our lives, but not in God's resolution. God made up His mind a long time ago about what He was going to do, and He hasn't changed His mind.

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