

## Resolutions For The New Year

As 2016 comes to a close, many of us will be making resolutions for the new year of 2017. Many of our resolutions will be of a personal nature; eat healthier, lose weight, exercise more, etc. Some will be of a spiritual nature; read through the Bible in a year, promising ourselves that this time we really are going to do it. We promise ourselves that this year will be different.

Will we be like Paul, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved” (**Romans 10:1**). Knowing that the only way they could be saved is by hearing and obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ (**Romans 10:14-15**). Therefore, wherever Paul went, he searched out the synagogue of the Jews to share the good news with them (**Acts 17:1-4**). Will we be a sharer of good news this coming year (**Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16**)?

Do we understand that we will be judged by the Word of God (**John 12:48**)? And do we understand that there is salvation in no other name under heaven by which we can be saved than Jesus (**Acts 4:12**). Therefore, will it be our resolution to “Study [give diligence] to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (**2 Timothy 2:15**). Will we search the Scriptures daily to make sure that these things are so (**Acts 17:11**)?

Do we believe that the Word of God is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword that can judge the thoughts and the intents of our heart (**Hebrews 4:12**)? Will we hunger and thirst for the pure milk of the word as a baby does and grow thereby (**1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14**)? Will we grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus (**2 Peter 3:18**)? Will it be our desire to speak as it were the oracles of God (**1 Peter 4:11**)?

Will we look unto the word of the Lord because He is our help (**Psalms 121:1-2**)? Will we spend time with **Psalm 119** to see the importance of the Word of God to us (**Matthew 4:4**)? Will we remember that it is not within us who walks to direct our own steps (**Jeremiah 10:23**)? The ways that seem right to us are the ways of death (**Proverbs 14:12**).

Will we have a better understanding of the importance of the body of Christ (the church) in our life (**Ephesians 5:23**)? Will we walk a little slower for our weaker brother (**Romans 14:1, 13, 20; 15:1-3**). Will we grow in our understanding of the importance of each member to the body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 12:12-27**)? Do we understand that it is not we who live, but Christ lives in us (**Galatians 2:20**)?

Will we understand our need to bear with one another and forgiving one another (**Colossians 3:13**)? Will we understand our need to be kind to one another and tenderhearted to one another (**Ephesians 4:32**)? Will we understand our need to be careful about letting our liberty become a stumbling block to the weak (**1 Corinthians 8:9**)? And can we do all these things without complaining and disputing (**Philippians 2:14**)?

Will we understand the importance of our walking worthy of our calling (**Ephesians 4:1**)? Of the gospel of Christ (**Philippians 1:27**)? Of the Lord (**Colossians 1:10**)? Of God (**1 Thessalonians 2:12**)? Of the kingdom (**2 Thessalonians 1:5**)?

Will we strive to have a better understanding of our responsibility to the shepherds who watch for our soul (**Hebrews 13:17**)? Do we understand the importance of their not having to answer for our soul with grief (**Hebrews 13:17**)? Do we love them for their works sake (**1**

**Thessalonians 5:13)?** Do we see the pattern they are setting before us as we work together for the cause of Christ (**1 Peter 5:3**)?

Something to think about!

David B. McElwain