

Christian Resolution

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Introduction



It's 2019!



As we begin a new Roman year, now is a good time to thank God for the many blessings that have come our way. God is gracious and He is kind unto His people. And may God's grace continue to be upon all of us.



His love and mercy never fails.

Therefore, we have more reasons to face the future with hope, confidence, optimism and cheerfulness.



Today, we will talk about Christian Resolutions.
On next month's Bible study will talk about
"Blessings Untold."



2018 is gone. 2019 is here! We are all one year older and hopefully, wiser - wiser not only in the sense of this world, but wiser in the spiritual sense.



As Christians we are encouraged to continue growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and savior Jesus Christ; and in the process become mature Christians in the faith.



2 Peter 3:18

As Peter encourages:

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”



It has been 19 years since many of us were concerned about the Y2K and it seems that our lives haven't changed that much. We are the same, except for a few white hair and wrinkles here and there.



As King Solomon said,

“Generations come and generations go, yet the world stays basically the same.”



Ecclesiastes 1

9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

10 Is there anything of which one can say, “Look! This is something new”? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.



Nothing much in our lives has changed significantly.
And, sadly, this include our spiritual lives.



That can all change with a
Resolution



“New Years” can be a time for new beginnings! It provides an emotional and psychological lift to many. It signals a fresh start with lots of new hope and exciting opportunities.



It is a wonderful time for setting life goals and planning ahead into the next 5, 10, 20 years. As Christians we need to plan even further, into eternity.



All resolutions and goals setting have one primary objective – to achieve what you want to achieve. What you want to become is what should drive you forward to attain your ultimate life goal.



The beginning of a new calendar year affords us this opportunity to make a goal and to make it come true. This Bible study on Christian Resolution is intended to help you jumpstart your spiritual goal for the future by internalizing your spiritual life's goal and vision.



Vision and Goals



Our goals can be physical and material, or spiritual and eternal. The Bible records two different visions, each of which is distinct from the other.



The Bible says that without vision, the people perish. Without vision there is no direction, aim and goal in life. Vision is the internalization of a goal. Vision is to see yourself achieving your God given destiny.
Vision drives your life.



Many companies usually have a Vision – a Mission Statement. A “Vision Statement” encompasses the essence of a company. It explains what the company wants to be.

If CGI has a vision and Mission Statement it would be: Saving Lives and bring many sons to glory.



What is your spiritual life vision and goal? We know this physical life we live in is temporary, so our life vision and goals should not end with this physical life. What is your eternal vision and goal?



What is your “beyond-this-life” or “after-this-temporary-life” vision and goal?



What is your life's vision?
If you have a life's goal what would it be?



Let's visit some examples of good goals,
resolutions, in the Bible.



1 Kings 2

2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said.

“So be strong, show yourself a man,

3 and observe what the LORD your God requires:

Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,



1 Kings 2

4 and that the LORD may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'



1 Kings 3

2 The people, however, were still sacrificing at the high places, because a temple had not yet been built for the Name of the LORD.

3 Solomon showed his love for the LORD by walking according to the statutes of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.



1 Kings 3

4 The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”



1 Kings 3

6 Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.



1 Kings 3

7 “Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.

8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number.



1 Kings 3

9 So give your servant a **discerning heart to govern** your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”



1 Kings 3

10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.

11 So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice,



1 Kings 3

12 I will do what you have asked. I will give you a **wise and discerning** heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

13 Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.



1 Kings 3

14 And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.”

15 Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord’s covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.



Solomon requested for wisdom and discernment to
rule over the people.



Solomon's goal was to rule over the people well. He didn't ask for riches or long life or any of the worldly things. He asked for wisdom to be able to lead God's people. God gave him wisdom.



Unfortunately, Solomon was not wise in the Lord. He got distracted by His Harem of 700 wives and 300 concubines who turned him to idolatry.



If you were given a wish for a life's goal,
what would it be?



Would you want to be a millionaire, a powerful politician, a famed personality or an enormously successful entrepreneur? What would be your one goal?



The really wise vision-goal came from the most unexpected individual – the thief on the cross.

The thief had a very short dialogue with Jesus as recorded in Luke 23:39-43:



Luke 23

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”



Luke 23

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence?”

41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”



Luke 23

42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into **your kingdom.**”

43 Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth today, you will be with me in **paradise.**”



The thief on the cross got his request when he asked that he be with Christ in His Kingdom. He longed to be with Christ in paradise.



Now consider

Abraham's Vision



Hebrews 11

8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

9 By faith he made his home in the Promised Land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

10 For he was **looking forward to the city** with foundations, whose **architect and builder is God**.



By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore Abraham was driven by a vision. **His vision was to be in the Holy City, the New Jerusalem...to be with God.**



All the men and women of faith recorded in Hebrews 11 had the goal of being with God in the coming Kingdom. The accounts in Hebrews 11 speak of their undying vision.



Hebrews 11

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.



Hebrews 11

15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 Instead, they were longing for **a better country—a heavenly one**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has **prepared a city** for them.



Hebrews 11

38 And the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.

40 God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.



Your life's vision and goal defines your ultimate relationship with Christ.

Do you have the right vision and goal in life?



Seek the Kingdom



What should your goal in life be?



Matthew 6:33

Jesus said, “Seek first **his kingdom** and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”



Matthew 25:34

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the **kingdom prepared** for you since the creation of the world.’”



When people speak about the Kingdom of God, it conjures up a lot of meanings. To some, it connotes heaven, paradise, eternity, spirit beings and be with Christ. The KINGDOM OF GOD means more than all these.



We know from the creation account of Genesis that all life comes from its own kind - the plant, fowl, insect, aquatic and animal kingdoms. What is the humankind then? The answer is in Hebrews 2:



Hebrews 2

5 It is **not to angels** that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

6 But there is a place where someone has testified:
“What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him?”



Hebrews 2

7 You made them a little lower than the angels; you **crowned** them with **glory and honor**

8 and **put everything under their feet.**” In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them.



Hebrews 2

9 But **we do see Jesus**, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now **crowned with glory and honor** because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.



Hebrews 2

10 In bringing **many sons and daughters** to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the **same family**. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.



Genesis 1

26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.



Mankind is made in the image and likeness of God in order to have a relationship with God. We will be higher than the angelic plane. We belong to the God plane. Therefore, the Kingdom of God means a KINGDOM COMPOSED OF GODLIKE BEINGS. We are to become God's CHILDREN.



This knowledge and vision of the truth should change your relationship with God and with Christ. It should change your life goals.



All the apostles knew and taught this truth. Hence, they experienced a profound relationship with God.



Now, consider the following verses:



Romans 8

14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God
are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a
slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of
sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”



Romans 8

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that **we are God's children.**

17 Now if we are children, then we are **heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also **share in his glory.**



Romans 8

23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we **wait eagerly** for our **adoption as sons**, the redemption of our bodies.

24 For in **this hope** we were **saved**. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.



Revelation 21:7

He who overcomes will inherit all this, and **I will be his God and he will be my son.**



2 Peter 1:4

“that we may participate in the **divine nature.**”



My friends, our one goal in life should be “sonship”
in the kingdom of God, to be adopted, begotten,
born, as sons and daughters into the Divine Family.



The Gospel



Jesus' gospel is about the kingdom of God which many fail to see. Jesus in one of the kingdom parables said:



Matthew 13

9 He who has ears, let him hear.”

10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”



Matthew 13

11 He replied, “The knowledge of the **secrets** of the **kingdom of heaven** has been **given to you**, but not to them.

12 Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.



Matthew 13

13 This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.



Matthew 13

15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'



Matthew 13

16 But **blessed are your eyes** because they see, and **your ears** because they hear.

17 For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.



Matthew 13

18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower mean.

19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.



Matthew 13

20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.

21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.



Matthew 13

22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

23 But the one who **received the seed that fell on good soil** is the man who hears the word and **understands it**. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.



Make It Work



Everyone's goal in life must be to participate in the divine glory and to become a son/daughter of our Father in Heaven! This is one vision in life comparable to none. We have no other choice but to make it work for us. How?



Here are a few tips on formulating your vision:

1. Internalize the vision
2. Make a commitment
3. Make it a habit
4. See it through



1. Internalize the Vision



You need to clearly state your goal and then internalize it. You need to imagine and see yourself where you want to be and what you want to become.



You need to spend some time studying the Bible - meditating on God's words in relation to your future. God's purpose of creation is for you to be a son in His kingdom.



Ephesians 1

3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.



Ephesians 1

5 In love he predestined us to be **adopted as his sons** through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.



Think about it. Does your life's vision match with
God's plan for you? Make the wiser choices!



1 John 3

1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.



2. Make a Commitment



Having a vision is easy; committing to it is difficult. A commitment necessitates a change of mind and habit. It requires an inner will.



Matthew 13

Jesus said:

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and **bought that field.**

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and **bought it.**



A total and complete commitment will demand everything we've got. We have to labor and ensure that we attain the eternal goal.



Philippians 3

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I **press on** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and **straining toward what is ahead,**

14 I press on **toward the goal** to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



3. Make it a Habit



Action is required to make progress. With a new and energized vision of eternal hope, you need a new habit to keep you on track.



To get close to God, we need to spend time with God. We can spend time reading the Bible, praying, meditating and more importantly is to spend time communing with God.



We all need the habit of meeting together, knowing more about God, encouraging and fellowshiping with each on God's appointed Holy time.



Leviticus 23

1 The Lord said to Moses,

2 “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.

3 “‘There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the Lord.



The Sabbath is not only a command but a sign
between God and His true followers. It is a sign
between you and God.



Exodus 31

13 “Say to the Israelites, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.

14 ‘Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you.



Make Sabbath day worship and fellowshiping your
new normal spiritual habit.



Hebrews 10

25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



4. See It Through



As mentioned, having a goal and a vision is the starting point. We need to see it through. We need get to the finish line.



1 Corinthians 9

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a **crown that will last forever.**



1 Corinthians 9

26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.

27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.



Jesus said those who endure to the end shall be saved.



There are many things in this life that can distract us from our goal. To achieve, we need discipline, focus, perseverance, endurance and faith.



Hebrews 12

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us **run with perseverance** the race marked out for us.



Hebrews 12

2 Let **us fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



Paul told Timothy that salvation is a personal goal.
It's all between you and Christ.



2 Timothy 2

10 Therefore I **endure everything** for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with **eternal glory**.

11 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also **live with him**.



Summation



Proverbs 29:18

“where there is no vision, the people perish.”



Without this spiritual divine vision, we will not achieve our God ordained destiny. If we do not know what God has planned for us, we will never direct our life accordingly to achieve it.



Friends, now we know our potential. Make it our one single vision in life. The only vision in life is to attain SONSHIP in the Divine Family as purposed by our Heavenly Father.



Let us all work, labor and finish the race towards the achievement of this vision. This is God's wish for all His children – to become a member of His Divine Family!

Make it our life's resolution and let it change your spiritual life in Christ!



END

