

A PLAN FOR 2007

INTRODUCTION:

- A. It's that time of year again. You know, when you sit down and make resolutions for the new year.
 - 1. Did you make resolutions *LAST WEEK*?
 - 2. How are you doing so far?
- B. Sadly, most of the resolutions we make are not kept.
- C. I believe it would be a pretty safe guess that "losing weight" would be at the top of the new year's resolution list. ILLUSTRATION: I'm sure you've heard about the woman who saw her husband standing on the scales, sucking and pulling in on his stomach. Bemused by all of this, she sarcastically said to her husband, "Honey, you know that's not going to help." To which he replied, "Sure it is, this way I can read the numbers."
- D. Well, losing weight is all well and good, but don't you think that in the grand scheme of things, it's a rather shallow resolution?
- E. David gives us a framework for proper resolutions in **Psalm 119:59-60**. "I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies. I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments."
- F. While the usual time for making resolutions is past, here are some thoughts that should guide us in the new year:

I. GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO YOUR LIFE, Psalm 119:59.

- A. "*I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies.*" **Psalm 119:59**.
- B. Too many go through life, getting up, dressing, going to work or school, back home again, go to bed, to start over the next morning, and don't give any thought to what they are doing with life.
- C. They don't give much thought to:
 - 1. FINANCIAL matters.
 - 2. FAMILY matters.
 - 3. SPIRITUAL matters.
- D. James asked a good question: "*For what is your life?*" **James 4:14**.
 - 1. Have you ever really considered that question?
 - 2. What is the *PURPOSE* of your life? Do you have a purpose?
- E. Consider what is really important in life as you are making resolutions or thinking about the future:
 - 1. What do I really need to improve my life?
 - 2. What can I do to improve the lives of those around me? (Socially and Spiritually?)
- E. Notice what David wrote in our text: he *THOUGHT* and then *TURNED*.
- F. TURN — the NT word that comes to mind is REPENT.

- G. How are we able to have the opportunity to turn to God?
 - 1. I think the answer is found in **verse 58**: "I entreated Your *favor* with my whole heart; Be *merciful* to me according to Your word."
 - 2. Because of God's *grace (favor)* and *mercy*, we have the opportunity to turn to God.
- H. This morning, give some thought to your life and turn back to God if that is what is needed.

II. MEASURE YOUR LIFE BY THE WORD OF GOD, Psalm 119:59.

- A. "I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to *Your testimonies*." **Psalm 119:59.**
- B. Every verse in Psalm 119 refers to God's Word: testimonies, precepts, commands, judgements, law, Your Word, statutes, etc.
- C. God's Word is to be the *STANDARD* by which we are to guide our lives.
- D. However, people use various standards to measure their lives:
 - 1. FEELINGS OR EMOTIONS.
 - a. That didn't work for Paul, who said to the council: "Men and brethren, I have lived *in all good conscience* before God until this day." **Acts 23:1.**
 - b. Some rely on what they think, want or feel to determine what is important in their lives.
 - 2. MAN'S WISDOM.
 - a. Paul used his own wisdom in persecuting the church: "Indeed, *I myself thought* I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth." **Acts 26:9.**
 - b. "These things we also speak, *not in words which man's wisdom teaches* but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual." **1 Corinthians 2:13.**
 - c. The Intellectualism of man stands in opposition to the wisdom of God, **1 Corinthians 1:18-20.** Cf. The "foolishness of preaching."
 - 18 "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."
 - 20 "Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"
 - 3. OTHERS.
 - a. The Pharisee in the temple compared himself to the publican, **Luke 18:10-11.**
 - b. "For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, *measuring themselves by themselves*, and *comparing themselves among themselves*, are not wise." **2 Corinthians 10:12.**
- D. When determining the appropriate resolutions, we must measure our lives as compared to the word of God as our standard. Jesus said: "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- *the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*" **John 12:48.**

- E. How does my life stack up when compared with the word of God? What about the resolutions that I have made?
- F. ***Some resolutions are sinful, some are wasteful, some are foolish. JUDGE THEM ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD.***

III. DON'T WASTE TIME GETTING STARTED, Psalm 119:60.

- A. *"I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments." Psalm 119:60.*
- B. DEFINITIONS:
1. *HASTE*: chuwsh (koosh); "a primitive root; to hurry; figuratively, to be eager with excitement or enjoyment:"
 2. *DELAY*: mahahh (maw-hah'); to question or hesitate, i.e. (by implication) to be reluctant:
- C. It is very easy to delay what you know you need to do.
1. "I'll start my diet Monday."
 2. "I need to study my Bible more."
- D. ***"PROCRASTINATION IS A KILLER OF GOOD INTENTIONS."***
- E. BIBLE EXAMPLES:
1. ***"You shall not delay*** to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me." ***Exodus 22:29.***
 2. Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, *let me first go and bury my father.*" But Jesus said to him, "*Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.*" ***Matthew 8:21-22.***
 3. *FELIX* was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." ***Acts 24:24-25.***
 4. *ZACCHAEUS* made haste to do what Jesus said: "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 *So he made haste* and came down, and received Him joyfully. ***Luke 19:5-6.***
- F. ILLUSTRATION: *"Know the true value of time; snatch, seize, and enjoy every moment of it. No idleness, no laziness, no procrastination: never put off till tomorrow what you can do today."* Lord Chesterfield
- G. As we begin this new year, may I encourage all of us to think and do better. Let's get beyond the *trivial* and look to the *eternal*.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Did you make New Year's Resolutions?
 - B. If you did, make them count.
 - C. Resolve to follow God and be more faithful in 2007.
 - D. This morning, give some thought to your life and turn back to God if that is what is needed.
- NEW YEAR 2007

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