

# Some REAL Resolutions

Part 2

**2 Corinthians 13:5**

*“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – Unless indeed you are disqualified.”*

**2 Corinthians 13:5**

All Scripture Quotations from the NKJV Bible

- With 2024 upon us, it is a good time for self examination.
- In our lesson today we want to notice some underlying issues that could hinder us from achieving our goals.

## Seek First the Kingdom of God

***“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”***  
(Matthew 6:33)

## Seek First the Kingdom of God

- Obeying this command is the key to everything!
- It means that God is to be our priority in life.
- It means His kingdom should be our first concern.

## Love God with all your heart

- This is the foundation of obeying God!  
*“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*  
(Matthew 22:37-40)

## Love God with all your heart

- Love God by obeying God!

*"If you love Me, keep My commandments.  
(John 14:15)*

*"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."*

**(1 John 2:3-6)**

## Love each other as He loves us

- "Christian love" (Greek – *agape*) – we care enough to sacrifice self for the good of others.

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* **(John 13:34-35)**

## Love each other as He loves us

- Keeping God's commandments is how we know we love God and one another.

*"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."*

**(1 John 5:2-3)**

## Renew your mind

- Renew – to reinvigorate, to make like new again, only better.

*"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."* **(2 Corinthians 4:16-18)**

## Renew your mind

- Not to be conformed to the world but to be transformed by the word of God.

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

**(Romans 12:1-2)**

## Renew your mind

- Out with the old thoughts, words, and deeds, and in with the new!

*"Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him ..."* **(Colossians 3:9-10)**

## Renew your mind

- Corruption is replaced with righteousness.

*"... if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*

**(Ephesians 4:21-24)**

## Renew your mind

- What does this have to do with resolutions?
- A KEY element! You have to make up your mind whether you will serve God first and love Him. It is a CHOICE!
- IF you find that you are struggling with putting God first, chances are you have NOT yet made up your mind to obey Him.
- NOW IS THE TIME!

## Learn Self-Control

- Self-control is needed when times of weakness and apathy begin to set in.
- Self-control is vitally important to the success of anything we do.
- Failure to control self is behind every sin we commit, and many problems in society.

## Learn Self-Control

- The Bible and self-control – Paul to Felix:

*"Now as he reasoned about righteousness, **self-control**, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, 'Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.'" (Acts 24:25)*

## Learn Self-Control

- The Bible and self-control – added to faith:

*"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge **self-control**, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."*

**(2 Peter 1:5-7)**

## Learn Self-Control

- The Bible and self-control – fruit of the Spirit:

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, **self-control**. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (Galatians 5:22-24)*

## Learn Self-Control

- The Bible and self-control – those who lack it:  
*“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, **without self-control**, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And **from such people turn away!**” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)*

## Learn Self-Control

- Self-control requires discipline ... Practice!  
*“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I **discipline my body and bring it into subjection**, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)*

## Learn Self-Control

- Let us resolve to take control of our thoughts in order to master our bodies, instead of letting our bodies master us.
- Remember the One who is OUR Master!  
*“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ ...” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)*

## Overcome the World

- Worldliness has always been a problem. Affluence often leads to worldliness.  
*“And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:15-21)*

## Overcome the World

- Affluence often leads to worldliness.  
*“But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, ‘How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’” (Luke 18:23-25)*  
*“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (James 4:4)*

## Overcome the World

- We need to think “other worldly”  
*“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:15-17)*  
*“Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:5)*  
*“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.” (Revelation 21:7)*

## Overcome the World

- We must lay up for ourselves treasures in Heaven!

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)*

*“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:1-2)*

## Overcome the World

- We must lay up for ourselves treasures in Heaven!

*“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:7-11)*

## Be Content

- The challenge of prosperity is contentment (also a challenge of poverty)

*“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”*

**(1 Timothy 6:6-8)**

*“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content ...”*

**(Philippians 4:11)**

## Be Content

- We must learn to be content with the blessings God has bestowed upon us, and be thankful.

*“Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches – Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, And say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.” (Proverbs 30:8-9)*

## Reach Forward

- Christians need to stop living in the past and to move ahead, growing in their faith.

*“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14)*

## Reach Forward

- Christians need to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus.

*“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

## Increase my faith

- Faith is the key ingredient in a Christian's life. We must resolve to grow our faith, adding all the necessary qualities to enhance it.

*"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love." (2 Peter 1:5-7)*

## Increase my faith

- We must pray for the Lord to help us to grow in our faith.

*"And the apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.'" (Luke 17:5)*

*"Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.' Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!'" (Mark 9:23-24)*

## Care about others

- We must love our neighbors as ourselves.

*"For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not covet,' and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, 'You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.**' Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."*

**(Romans 13:9-10)**

*"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.**" (Galatians 5:14)*

*"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall **love your neighbor as yourself,**' you do well ..."*

**(James 2:8)**

## Care about others

- We must genuinely love the souls of others.

*"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." (Philippians 2:3-4)*

*"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10)*

## Care about others

- We NEED to care about others enough to share the good news (The Gospel) of God's kingdom.

*"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)*

**LET US RESOLVE TO CARE AND TO SHARE!**

## How to Obey the Gospel:

**Hear the word of God** (2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

**Believe the gospel message** (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

**Repent of sins** (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

**Confess Jesus Christ** (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

**Be Baptized** (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

**Remain Obedient** (Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)

**OBEY THE GOSPEL AND BE SAVED TODAY!**