

Some REAL Resolutions

Part 1

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

- Self examination is important from time to time ... and commanded!
- **With 2024 just hours away, this is a good time to examine and make necessary changes!**
- Today we will suggest some REAL resolutions, and 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

- This command is the key to everything!
- **Kingdom** – means the dominion of a king (ruler).
- A kingdom is composed of a king and his subjects.

Seek First the Kingdom of God

- Ours is a spiritual kingdom.
“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’”
(John 18:36)

Seek First the Kingdom of God

- Ours is a spiritual kingdom.

“Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, “See here!” or “See there!” For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:20-21)

Seek First the Kingdom of God

- This command means that serving God should be our greatest priority.

*“And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, **choose for yourselves** this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)*

Seek First the Kingdom of God

- Why are we REALLY here?

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

Seek First the Kingdom of God

- Why are we REALLY here?

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.” (Matthew 10:34-38)

Seek First the Kingdom of God

- This command means that serving the King is the FIRST thing we will do when making future plans.

“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’” (James 4:13-15)

Seek First the Kingdom of God

- The FIRST thing we will do!
- Jesus’ apostles understood this.

“Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.” (Matthew 4:19-22)

Seek First the Kingdom of God

- The FIRST thing we will do! Jesus' apostles understood this.
"Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, 'Behold the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, 'What do you seek?' They said to Him, 'Rabbi' (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), 'where are You staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus." (John 1:35-42)

Seek First the Kingdom of God

- The FIRST thing we will do! NO EXCUSES!
"Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, 'Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.' Then He said to another, 'Follow Me.' But he said, 'Lord, let me first go and bury my father.' Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.' And another also said, 'Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.' But Jesus said to him, 'No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'" (Luke 9:57-62)

Seek First the Kingdom of God

- Do we REALLY take this command seriously? Examine yourself!
- What does our conduct show?
- What do our words show?
- What do our thoughts show?
- Seeking Him first will influence everything we do, say, and think.

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

- "Christian love" (Greek – *agape*) – we care enough to sacrifice self for the good of others.
"We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." (1 John 4:19-20)

Love God with all your heart

- Do we truly want to please God and glorify Him?
"If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11)

Love God with all your heart

- Do we truly want to please God and glorify Him?
“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

(1 Corinthians 10:31)

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

(Colossians 3:17)

Love God with all your heart

- We must practice “abounding love.”

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

(Philippians 1:9-11)

Love God with all your heart

- Abounding love (Philippians 1:9-11)
 - 1) Abundant and increasing
 - 2) Growing in knowledge
 - 3) Seeks out the excellent
 - 4) Sincere and without offense
 - 5) Filled with fruits

(cf. Galatians 5:22-24)

Love God with all your heart

- How do we demonstrate this love?
- By keeping His commandments!

“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)

Love God with all your heart

- How do we demonstrate this love?
- By keeping His commandments!

“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 God with all your heart

- How do we demonstrate this love?
- By keeping His commandments!

“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 God with all your heart

- How do we demonstrate this love?
- By keeping His commandments!

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.’” (John 14:23-24)

Love God with all your heart

- Do we take our love for Him seriously?
- Unlike the world?

“To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.” (Titus 1:15-16)

Love God with all your heart

- Do we take our love for Him seriously?

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:21-23)

Love God with all your heart

- Do we take our love for Him seriously?

*“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and **does them**, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and **did nothing** is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.” (Luke 6:46-49)*

Important Resolutions

- Let us resolve to **seek first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and to truly **love God** in humble obedience.

“And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him ...” (Hebrews 5:9)

Important Resolutions

- The only way to **seek first His Kingdom** and to **obey Him** is to know His will! We must know our Bible!

“Be diligent 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)

“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)

Is God and His Kingdom first in your life?

Be assured that He knows!

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!