

# The Christian in 2005

## Introduction:

New years resolutions take our country by storm this time of year. Some resolve to stop smoking, drinking, and cussing. Others resolve to loose weight and tone up. This lesson shall examine the idea of the Christian's spiritual resolve for this year and the years to come in our life.

**Resolve / Resolution** = "to make a firm decision about... a course of action determined or decided upon." (AHD 1052).

Here are five 'firm decisions' or 'courses of determined action' that the Christian can consider for 2005

- I. Let the Christian resolve to forsake sin in 2005:**
  - A. Sin = a transgression of God's law (I Jn. 3:4).
  - B. Sin separates one from God's fellowship (Isa. 59:1-2).
  - C. Let the Christian develop an attitude of hatred for sin (Rom. 12:9).
  - D. Let the Christian have great sorrow over sin (II Cor. 7:8-10).
- II. Let the Christian resolve to pray more in 2005:**
  - A. Pray always (I Thess. 5:17-18).
  - B. Pray for others (James 5:16).
  - C. Pray that self and others would grow spiritually (Eph. 3:14-20; Col. 1:9ff).
  - D. Paul exhorted all Christians to pray for the lost of the world (I Tim. 2:1-4).
- III. Let the Christian resolve to teach the lost in 2005:**
  - A. Pray for opportunities now (Eph. 6:18-20).
  - B. Be on the look out for opportunities to preach (I Cor. 16:8-9).
- IV. Let the Christian Resolve to have a Godly Home in 2005 (Eph. 5:22-6:4):**
  - A. Godly Fathers
  - B. Godly Mothers
  - C. Godly Children
- V. The Lord' church in 2005:**
  - A. Let us resolve to edify each other (Eph. 4:11ff).
  - B. Let us resolve to evangelize the lost (Phil. 4:15).
  - C. Let us resolve to care for needy saints (Rom. 15:26ff; etc.)
  - D. Let us resolve to promote unity in the body of Christ:
    1. The Psalmists said, "*behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*" (Ps. 133:1).
    2. While it is most certainly pleasant to dwell together in unity we should never stress the 'pleasantness' over the source of our unity (Rom. 15:5-6).
- VI. Let the Christian resolve to give effort in his spiritual walk in 2005:**
  - A. God demands our efforts and is disappointed in the one who does not try (Heb. 10:37-39).

- B.** The apostle Paul encourages effort (II Tim. 2:15; Phil. 3:13ff).
- C.** Those who give no diligence (effort) in life have nothing good to eternally look to (Heb. 4:11; 10:37-39).

### **Conclusion:**

The Christian's eternal resolve is to make it to heaven. We, by faith, understand that God has promised us such an eternal abode **if** we would remain faithful to him (I Jn. 2:25; I Cor. 15:1-2; Col. 1:21-23).