

## Given Up Yet?

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by Wayne Goff

Have you given up on your New Year's Resolution(s) yet? Some have solved the problem by **refusing** to make any resolutions! They figure that if you don't make any resolutions, you cannot fail at any of them. While that is true, it does not speak well for those people. They seem to think that "resolutions" are unnecessary and unimportant. But think of it this way: **resolutions are just mental determinations to improve your life.** So if you determine **not** to "resolve" to improve, then you are *set* in your ways, *unwilling* to advance, and have become *stagnant* in your life. So when you put it that way, resolutions are more important than you think!

On the other hand, you don't have to wait for the beginning of a new year to make a resolution. You can do it anytime you need to, and those who have obeyed the gospel have already made a **resolution** — it's called repentance — they have "resolved" not to sin anymore. And that is a biblical concept, my friend.

Christianity is **not** a horizontal walk. You do not obey the gospel and *begin to grow* (**1 Peter 2:2**) and then get to a stage in life where you just coast! But those "pew warmers" who sit back in Bible class and stare at the teacher, just waiting for class to be over, have set their "cruise control" to "coast"! Do they really think the Lord is pleased with their apathy, indifference, and neglect?! If they do, then I suggest they read the **Parable of the Talents** (**Matthew 25:14-30**) and especially the servant with "one talent." The Lord said to him: "You wicked and lazy servant,... take the talent from him, ... and cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"! So the bottom line is that God expects us to grow, develop, mature and serve Him in His kingdom in any of a number of ways. "Coasting" while the "faithful few" do all the work is **unacceptable**. But I am certain that there will always be those "wicked and lazy" servants who think they're doing just fine. No amount of coaxing, coercing, or rebuking will do them any good. Their "I can't" really means "I won't, and I'm not about to!" I truly feel sorry for them because they are taking a walk down "easy street" when they could be producing so much good in their lives to the glory of God and themselves.

So maybe, just maybe, someone will read this brief article and have a change of heart. Maybe they will see themselves in this article and realize their spiritual danger. The New Testament epistles are FULL of advice, instruction, commands and admonishments to get up and get to work. Can you give a brother or sister a "cup of cold water" (**Matt. 10:40-42**)? Can you be a "laborer in the vineyard (church)" (**Matt. 20:1-16**)? Jesus warns that many will be called, but few chosen. Remember the **Judgment Scene of Matthew 25:31-40** where the blessed were those who assisted needy saints! "Glory, honor and peace" is given to every one who "**works what is good**" (**Rom. 2:10**). We could go on and on, but you get the point.

*"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.***

**Resolve, today, to grow in the Lord Jesus Christ!**

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