

2008: I AM RESOLVED!

by Robert Hatfield

The words are often sung: "I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delight; things that are higher, things that are nobler, these have allured my sight." Webster says that one who resolves to do something is one who "reaches a firm decision."

Christians are *resolved* people; each day they firmly decide not to let Satan deceive them with sin. With a new year fast approaching, the Lord willing that the world continue to stand to see that new year begin (James 4:13-15), it seems to be a great time for each Christian to reevaluate and rededicate his or her life to the Lord.

Resolve to **ATTEND** each worship service and opportunity for spiritual growth. Christians look forward to times of assembly with the saints, whether they be to worship God (Acts 20:7; John 4:24) or to study the Bible together (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:18). Assemblies with the saints are times that faithful Christians do not miss!

Resolve to **CONTEND** for the faith! To *contend* is to maintain or assert. In Jude 3, Christians are admonished to "*earnestly contend for the faith.*"

Resolve to **DEFEND** the truth! The truth is plainly revealed to men (John 17:17). The freedom that comes only from the truth of the Bible is available to all (John 8:32; Titus 2:11-12). Opposition to the truth is plainly identified (e.g. Mat. 7:15-20; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Tim. 4:3-5). We are not to be caught up in the passive indifference of the world, which continually presents more and more threats to the truth. Christians are ready to defend: "*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil*" (Eph. 6:11).

Resolve to **DEPEND** on God. He offers fallen man a place of refuge from the ever-prevalent storms of sin. He has provided salvation to sinners and sustenance to those who strive toward righteousness. He assures mankind of His ever-listening ear and the power of prayer (2 Pet. 3:12; 1 Thes. 5:17). Truly the Father is the only one on whom men may confidently depend to meet every need (2 Pet. 1:3).

Resolve to **INTEND** on obeying God — no matter what! It is the first step, but it is an important first step! A life of righteousness begins in the heart (Mat. 12:35). Therefore, to awake to each new day with a renewed intention and purpose, then to live that day carrying out that intention through everyday actions is certainly a formula for success.

Resolve to **EXTEND** the love of Christ to all people in every possible way. That love will show forth in our concern for lost souls (Luke 19:10), in our treatment of others (Mat. 5:43-48; 7:12), and in our value of self (Mat. 16:26).

The new year provides a great opportunity to rededicate that resolution which was made when the Christian came up out of the waters of baptism. However, it is readily realized there is no guarantee that the world will remain standing on January 1, 2008. Therefore, to live each day with greater dedication and zeal is essential to one who seeks heaven eternal. Revelation 2:10.