

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Committing Our Resolutions To God

Caleb Westbrook

As we dawn another new year many people are talking about resolutions they intend to keep. While the beginning of a new year is truly an opportune time to make new plans, goals, and aspirations, we must keep all of these in tune with what God desires.

Planning is a natural part of our thought process. We like to place a goal before ourselves and strive to meet that end. Proverbs 16:1a states “The preparations of the heart belong to man,” and also in Proverbs 16:9a it says “A man’s heart plans his way.” God understands our desire to make plans, but in so doing we must keep them in the proper perspective.

There is a contrast that is found in the context of Proverbs 16. As we noted the beginnings of verses 1 and 9, let us notice the contrast that is paired with these statements. “A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps” (Prov. 16:9). Also in Prov. 16:1b we find “the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.” While man may create plans for his life, those plans will always be subject

to the sovereignty of Jehovah.

With this truth realized we can then turn to the corresponding exhortation in Proverbs 16:3, “Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.” While we may make plans for vacations, jobs, or personal goals for the coming year, do we make sure our goals are committed to the Lord? Do we neglect our spiritual work and plans only to dwell upon the physical?

Instead of involving all of our hopes around what new hobby we want to master this year, perhaps we should plan to try to read God’s word every day. We would be committing our works to the Lord if our plans centered around evangelism or personal purity rather than all our resolutions focusing on the passing physical aspects of life. We must be children of faith (2 Cor. 5:7) and our plans should reflect our heavenly focus (Col. 3:1).

Not only should our resolutions and goals for the coming year be committed to God’s will, they also should be approached with humility. In James 4:13-16 the inspired writer warns about boastful planning. We must not think that

this coming year is a sure thing. We do not know what will happen, and understanding that fact we must give respect to the Lord’s control. This is emphasized in James 4:15, “Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’”

As we seek to align our plans with God’s will and humbly revere His sovereignty over our lives, it is vital that we remain steadfast in our goals to serve Him. In Matt. 5:37 Jesus states “But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No’.” It is imperative that we keep our commitments before the Lord. We should not test God by saying that we are going to try to be more faithful this coming year, but have no real intention of making a concerted effort to do so. We must be faithful and live our lives with diligence, honesty, and endurance (Heb. 6:10-11).

While others make many resolutions they do not intend to keep this year, may we be different! May our resolutions be committed to God and may we keep them in honesty this year.