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December 30, 2001

What About You In 2002?

Joshua 24:14-15

INTRO: What about you in 2002? What will you do? What will you accomplish? Who will you serve?

When we think of New Year's, we think of resolutions, most of which will be broken. We get into serious trouble with New Year's resolutions when they collide with the old year's habits. Since New Year's resolutions are so hard to keep maybe we ought to have them notarized! It is sad to say but most of the new leaves we turned over last January have already fallen.

I really don't want to talk about resolutions as such; I want to talk about you and your service to God. What about you in 2002?

I. WHAT ABOUT YOU AND GIVING?

- A. The Devil will give you all kinds of reasons not to give as you should in 2002.
- B. God gives us reason why we should give in 2002?
 - 1. The Bible says to bring the tithe into the storehouse. The storehouse, today, is the church. We are always to give the tithe to the church we belong to. You see it is God's money. He gets the tithe, and He blesses you when you give (Malachi 3:8-11).
 - 2. Yes, God will bless your family for generations to come if you give faithfully (Heb 7:8-10).
 - 3. God blesses the man who gives (Prov 3:9-10), and He loves the cheerful giver (II Cor 9:8, "God loveth a cheerful giver," but He'll take money from any ole grouch.

II. WHAT ABOUT YOU AND SPIRITUAL VALUES?

- A. There is much talk today about the economy, the fact that many stocks are down, that their value is not very high. Don't you think we need to put our stock in heaven, to invest up there?
 - 1. Matthew 6:19-20 tells us to lay up treasures in heaven. This is not money for there is no need for it there. This is spiritual treasure, treasure with spiritual value.
 - 2. Philippians 4:8-9 gives us a list of spiritual values, values to follow after.
- B. We need to have the right spiritual priorities for our priorities will serve as a spiritual thermometer of our spiritual values.

1. We are to seek first God's kingdom, His work in 2002 (Matt 6:33).
2. Does your calendar reveal that Jesus is first in your life, and that you value spiritual things.
 - a. Is the Lord's church and her activities as important as other things? It should be more important. "Christ loved the church and gave himself for it."
 - b. Do I clear my calendar in order to serve the Lord, or is service for the Lord the first thing dropped?

III. WHAT ABOUT YOU AND SELF-CONTROL?

- A. Things are out of control in this world, but God's people need to be under the Master's control.
- B. We live in a stressful time, in the fast lane, in turbulent times.
 1. The only way to have peace in our age is to know the Prince of Peace.
 2. The Bible tell us that it is important to have self-control.
 - a. We need to control our anger. Prov 16:32, "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." If you have control of your anger, you are better than a great commander.
 - b. Lack of control of our spirit leads to destruction. Prov 25:28, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." Anything can happen to a man with no self-control in his life.

IV WHAT ABOUT YOU AND OBEDIENCE?

- A. Will you be obedient to the Lord in 2002?
 1. Will you obey God and do what He wants you to do no matter what the cost?
 2. If God is leading you to join this church, then be obedient!
 3. If you have been saved then be obedient to the Lord, follow Him in believer's baptism.
 - a. Acts 2:41 says, "They that gladly received his word were baptized."
 - b. Acts 8:12 says, "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."
 - c. To not follow the Lord in baptism after salvation is disobedience. James 4:17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

V. WHAT ABOUT YOU AND A CLEAR CONSCIENCE?

- A. You don't want to start 2002 with a conscience that is not clear?
1. A clear conscience is "that inner freedom of spirit and assurance from knowing... that no one is able to point a finger at you and accuse you of wrongs toward him that you have never made right" (Gothard).
 2. I Peter 3:15-16 illustrates the need of a clear conscience.
- B. Don't make excuses; get it right!
1. Wrong approaches to a clear conscience:
 - a. "I was wrong, but you were too."
 - b. "I'm sorry about it, but it wasn't all my fault."
 - c. "t~'m sorry," doesn't go far enough.
 - d. if I've been wrong, please forgive me."
 2. The right approach: "I realize that I have been wrong in basic offense, will you forgive me?"

VI WHAT ABOUT YOU AND ETERNITY?

- A. Are you sure that you are on the way to heaven?
1. Preacher, I am sincere in what I believe. Isn't that enough? The answer is NO! (Acts 4:12).
 2. Christ is the only way to be right with God, to be justified. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom 3:26).
- B. It is in Christ that we have eternal life.
1. Rom 6:23.
 2. I John 2:25; 5:11,13.

CONCLUSION: How about you in 2002?