

Getting a little better each day

SLIDE 2

Intro.

A. During this time of year we began to think about resolutions.

1. Just out of curiosity let me ask how many of you have made resolutions for this year?
2. Everyone of us go through the motions each year of trying to improve or change something about ourselves or about our routine.

SLIDE 3

3. Here you see the top 10 resolutions people make every Jan. 1st.

a. We may try to change habits

b. We may try to improve ourselves physically.

c. We may try to save money

1) We may find ourselves needing this one to get over the Christmas holiday.

d. We may even try to change our attitudes in life to become better people.

e. When we come together as God's family, we may think about changing ourselves spiritually to make improvements as Christians.

3. Whether it be one of these things or some other thing, we generally think of something to improve on at the beginning of each year.

SLIDE 4

B. The only thing about resolutions is that they are generally short lived.

1. Resolving to change habits may be harder than we think so we give up on these resolutions.

2. Sometimes it's hard to make improvements.

3. Sometimes it's hard to save money.

4. Changes in general are hard to make when we have grown accustomed to how we live.

5. So, we become discouraged and aggravated with our attempts to change, so we throw in the and quit.

6. Thus never achieving our resolutions.

SLIDE 5

C. I want to suggest to you this morning that several things must be done in order to keep resolutions that you make in life.

SLIDE 6

1. 1st of all, you have to think about it.
 - a. If you are going to do something, it must be on your mind all the time.
 - b. You make a note you put it on your refrigerator, put it on your mirror, put it by night stand, anywhere easily seen so that you will be reminded constantly of this change.

SLIDE 7

2. Next you need to be reminded of it.
 - a. It may be that you need to get your husband or your wife just to say to you don't forget now, what you said: you're going to do this.
 - b. Or maybe say, remember now you said you were not going to do this.

SLIDE 8

3. Sometimes, you may need a little help.
 - a. Sometimes we need to have someone on our side.
 - b. Sometimes we need that little extra boost when we can't seem to get it done by ourselves.
 - c. This is particularly true spiritually.
 - 1) of course, we have God will always give us the help and the support that we need as we tackle our problems in life.
 - 2) we can always approach God's throne in prayer and ask him to help us with our needs.
 - 3) we need turn to each other for help to overcome our difficulties.
 - 4) the Christian family is the greatest support group that we could ever have.

SLIDE 9

4. Finally, we have to work at it.

a. We have to make up our mind that we are going to do this.

b. We're going to put our greatest effort into it.

1) Solomon tells us in **Ecclesiastes 9: 10**, *whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might*

2) basically what Solomon is saying is this: you may live a long time therefore whatever you do do it well.

3) you may have only a few hours to live therefore whatever you do do it well.

4) Solomon goes on to say for prayer is no work or device or wisdom in the grave where you are going, therefore whatever you do do well.

c. Moses said in **Psalm's 90:10**, you may live to be 70 years old, if you're strong you may live to be 80.

1) But even if you do, it is a short time. therefore do what you do well.

SLIDE 10

5. But what things need to be done well?

a. Think about all the things you do in life:

1) Paul said: **Colossians 3:2**. *Set your mind on things above, not own things on the earth.*

2) what you work for? what drives you?

You work hard to keep the job.

You work hard to keep your family take care of.

You put money in the bank

you set aside for retirement

you try to keep your future impact

3) You try to do well in all of these things because they all help sustain you in life.

4) Imagine if you worked this hard to do the things that God wants you to do, how much better things would be in your life.

b. This is a good rule when making resolutions.

1) Remember what Solomon said, *whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.*

SLIDE 11**TRANSITION**

A. Now, I want to go back to something I have already said.

1. Most resolutions are short lived.
2. What makes them so hard?

SLIDE 12

B. Your task may be like this mountain:

1. And you may say, I'm going to move that mountain.

SLIDE 13

C. Or, you may say, I'm going to leap over this building.

Has anyone ever been to the sears tower in Chicago.

When I saw it back in the 90's it was the tallest building in the world.

1729 feet high, 113 occupiable stories.

When I saw it, I was actually on the 80th story The Standard Oil building

The top section of the sears tower was covered by a cloud and I couldn't see the top.

Imagine having to maneuver over something that big?

But, we see it and we say, boy, I'm going to leap that building with a single bound.

SLIDE 14

D. Or maybe we go after our resolution and say "I'm going to set a world record".

1. Now, there may be one or two people in this room who can lift this weight, but, I'll tell you, I'm not one of them.
2. This man is actually lifting 471 lbs.

SLIDE 15

E. Yet, You get going all these resolutions on your mind, and you get gung-ho and you say:

I'm going to move that mountain

I'm going to leap over that building

I'm going to lift that weight

So, you run up to that mountain, and man, it's big

You look up at that building - I'll never be able to leap over this building

And the weight - It's too much to move, much less lift.

So, you give up

Because I can't move that mountain

I can't leap over that tall building

And I can't lift all this weight.

SLIDE 16

So, in just a few days, all of our good intentions, we're back to where we were to begin with.

F. So, what's the answer?

SLIDE 17**I. Get a little Better.**

A. There is a common thread that connects all that I have talked about today together.

1. One little word that can bring all of this together and make all of our resolutions and all of our tasks possible to achieve.

SLIDE 18

B. That word is better.

1. It would be amazing how different yours and my life would be if we would focus our attention on getting just a little bit better.
2. How much stronger we could be if we would focus on becoming just a little bit better.
 - a. It's not about lifting weights
 - b. It's not about moving mountains
 - c. or leaping over buildings
3. It's not about making radical changes in our lives today, it's about getting better.
4. What kind of progress would I make if I resolved to get a little bit better every day?

C. Take a look at the things you are good at.

1. Everyone here has something that they are good at.
 - a. Something that you enjoy doing and you are good at it.
2. For me, it's music.

I've been playing for 45 years and yes I'm good at it.

The first time I put a guitar in my hand:

I was going to move that mountain

I was going to leap that building

I was going to lift that weight...

When I played for the first time and laid that guitar down..

I said "HMPT" "Forget you"

But, I went back the next day, and I still couldn't play

But, I kept going back and I kept getting a little bit better each time

Until one day I picked it up and actually knew what I was doing.

But, I couldn't move that mountain right off

I had to do it one step at a time.

D. What about something you are not good at but want to be good at?

1. Same process: you work at it, you grow, you get a little better every day.

SLIDE 19**II. Get a little better in your spiritual life.**

A. Now the point of the lesson is this.

1. Every one of us needs to go home and look into our spiritual mirror and see where we are and then see where we need to be and make our resolutions to get there.
2. And then follow the process.

I can assure you that you're not going to move that mountain - tomorrow!
 You're not going to leap that building!
 You're not going to lift that weight.

3. But, day by day, you can get a little bit better.

SLIDE 20

Conc.

- A. We need to make our resolutions with something that Paul said on our minds:
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1Cor.15:58

SLIDE 21

1. Paul is telling us here, to be a better Christian.

- a. I want to be better at pleasing God with my life.
- b. I want to be better at walking in the light.
- c. I want to be better at doing what God would want me to do.
- d. I want to be better in daily living without excuse, without hesitation, without reservation.
- e. I want to be better in attitude,
- f. I want to be better in attention,
- g. I want to be better in attendance; whether that be for services or in opportunities of fellowship.

B. No, you can't do it all at one time - You can't do it all in one day.

1. But, you can get a little better every day.

SLIDE 22

C. If you are outside of Christ, you can become a Christian through obedience to the gospel of Christ.

1. No, you won't be a perfect Christian any time soon.
 - a. I've been a Christian since March of 1973 and I'm not there yet.
 - b. But, you will be perfect, because Jesus Christ will perfect you on that last day if you are His child.
2. Christian - Having trouble keeping those spiritual resolutions?
 - a. God doesn't expect you to do it all at once.
 - b. Just get a little better every day.
3. The blood of Christ will continually cleanse you if you walk in the light.
 - a. If you make a mistake, and you will, repent and pray for forgiveness.
 - b. God will forgive - And just keep on getting a little better each day.

D. This morning, I challenge each one of us to resolve to be just a little bit better.

E. You will be surprised what a difference it will make in your life.

IF SUBJECT, COME