

Resolving to Grow
Growing Spiritually in 2017
1/8/2017 Sunday AM

Scripture Verses: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Sermon Notes

- Last week was New Year's Day and we spoke about Resolving to Surrender.
- New Years is a time when everyone seem to be making resolutions, and it just seems fitting that we focus our attention on things that really matter and not simply on the material world.
- We looked last week at Proverbs 3:1-12 and took it two verses at a time as we uncovered its truths.
- Basically, if we want a prosperity, favor with God and men, God directing our journey, health and nourishment, and material blessings, we must surrender everything we have to God.
- Last week I encouraged you to Resolve to Surrender and to let go in 2017.
- To focus intently on your spiritual life in 2017 and everything else will fall into place.
- This morning I want to build off of that and talk about Resolving to Grow.
- This is something that many church may be resolving in 2017 when it comes to their numbers, that is not what I want us to focus on today nor this year.
- When I say Resolving to Grow, I am speaking of us growing spiritually. Maturing in our faith.
- The first step in growing spiritually is surrendering as we stated last week.

1 Corinthians 3:1-11

¹Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? ⁴For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? ⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe--as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- As we can see the folks in Corinth we still "mere infants in Christ."
- Paul had established the Church in Corinth a decade before where he gave them "milk, not solid food."
- They were not ready for it then as new Christians, but the problem is that a decade later they have not grown
- **That is the issue with us in the world today as well, years pass and we grow older, but do we mature?**
- Paul was teaching the Corinthian Christians that everything was about God in this passage.
- They were focusing on Paul and Apollos and maybe others, but Paul was quick to point out everything was about God.
- God is the one that actually brings growth, all we can do is plant seeds and tend to the soil.
- This is true when it comes to salvation, and it is true as we mature in our faith.
- Jesus Christ is our foundation and if we try to build on a foundation other than Christ, it will only crumble.
- As you are resolving to surrender and to grow in 2017, ensure that you are starting from a point where Christ is the foundation.
- Once you ensure that your foundation is laid correctly, then you can begin to build upon that.
- This process of building upon Jesus as our foundation, is the process of growing spiritually.
- "Getting Saved" is when you are reborn, so you must grow up all over again.

- The only way that you will succeed in growing in your spiritual life this year is if you resolve to put in effort
- One area that you must put a lot of effort in is understanding God's Word.

Deuteronomy 11:18-22

¹⁸Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ¹⁹Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ²⁰Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

- Here Moses is speaking of the Ten Commandments, but the principle applies to all of God's Word to us.
- Is the Word of God fixed in your heart and mind?
- Are YOU teaching God's Word to your children?
- Are you talking about God's Word while at home and when you are out in public?
- God wants His Word to be at the center of everything we do in our lives.
- He wants us to know His Word and to not only know it, but to live it.
- How much of God's Word do you know?
- How much time do you spend reading and studying God's Word?
- **Did you even bring a Bible this morning? If so, have you even opening it once?**

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

¹²And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Back in Deuteronomy we see that God asked us to fear Him, walk in His ways, love Him, serve Him with all of our heart and soul, and to observe His commands and decrees.
- If you want to grow in your spiritual life this year, you will obey what Deuteronomy 10:12-13 says.
- We see that Jesus gave us the Great Commission which in v. 20 focuses heavily on "teaching them to obey EVERYTHING..."
- This is teaching people the Word of God.
- I pray that you will use this new year to focus on your spiritual life and to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.
- This cannot and will not happen, if you do not surrender your heart and life to him, and you do not put an emphasis on His Word.
- The Bible is our sword and we cannot go into battle without of sword.
- You need to be grounded in the Bible and your knowledge of the Scripture must be more than that of an infant.
- Do you resolve to grow in 2017? What is your plan to do this?

Tonight: Introduction to the Book of Colossians
Wednesday: Who's Who in the Bible - Aaron