

## EDITORIAL

### 1952—RESOLUTIONS OR RESURRECTIONS?

Another word for resolution would be determination—to follow a certain course. Another way of speaking of resurrection would be—to bring back to life. With these clear meanings in view we ought to consider the question, "Resolutions or Resurrections in 1952."

Truth is stranger than fiction especially when it comes to making resolutions. The truth of the matter is they are broken as easily as my mother's pie-crusts. Despite the fact that people determine, come what may, they are resolutely going to keep their resolves, a month of a new year finds that some have been broken. Some of those good ideas that were going to make new men and women of us somehow came to nought. How many good men have said, "I will stop smoking so many cigarettes in the new year." I will give up my drinking habits. I will swear less, etc. They discover they have to make the same resolutions year after year.

The Christian should always be seeking to be at his best for Jesus Christ. As for him making resolutions, I wonder at the wisdom of such a course. He should be concerned with making Resurrections.

Do you know a Christian that could not profit by bringing something back to life? The weary round of life causes us to lose some of the keenness from our Christian experience. How about a revival of zeal in our hearts for the best experience possible? Lord help us to re-awake from the dead the keen edge of our experience.

Then how long has it been since we let that shout of victory die? When did I last say "AMEN" with such determination that God blessed me, and the preacher and the church because of it?? Lots of AMEN'S need to be resurrected otherwise our spirit nature will suffer.

Finally—am I looking for the Resurrection of the Dead. If so perhaps 1952 will find me looking at the "Dead in Christ rising" and we which are alive caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air," so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Resolutions or Resurrections, I would rather make more of the last named than any of the first named.

May God help us to be the very best we can be in 1952.—Ed.

### OBEDIENCE

"Behold to obey," said the prophet of old,  
"Is better than burnt sacrifices untold."

As a principle, none is more certain and sure  
Of reward than obedience, simple and pure.  
From obedience stream all the virtues of life,  
While self-will produces rebellion and strife.

All those who would serve well must learn  
to obey.

There's no other recourse; there's no other  
way.

So it isn't the "how" whereof some may boast;  
It is always the "now" God counts uppermost.

—Sel.

## THINK ON THESE THINGS

Youth is always the time to begin things. If a thing is worth doing the sooner we get at it the better. Youth has been called "the savings bank of life", and what you put in that bank in youth you will be able to draw out in old age. Or, in other words, the house you build today you will live in tomorrow. Youth also has been called the spring-time of life—the time for planting the seed. You and I are sowers, the span of years we call life is the field, our actions are the seed, and reward or punishment will be the harvest. Old age has been called the harvesting time of life, and your harvest is sure to be like the kind of seed you sow. If you sow to the flesh, you shall of the flesh reap corruption. You can't sow Hell and hope to reap heaven!!

—F. LINCICOME.

"Happiness is the by-product of obedience."

## THE SPIRIT OF NEW YEAR

I like the spirit of New Year,

With its challenge clear and strong  
To tighten anew God's armor  
As we battle our way along.

It's the time of times to examine

Our methods of work and prayer,  
And to be sure they are such as to bring out  
The best in us everywhere.

To grasp the Sword of the Spirit

With a firmer, surer hand;  
Against the wiles of Satan  
To make a more certain stand.

It's the time for a bolder witness;

For redeeming the time to be  
With joyful, earnest proclaiming  
Of the gospel mystery.

—Sel.

"Two little lines I heard one day

As I plodded on my usual way,  
And they rang in my ears again, again,  
Repeating in solemn, sweet refrain:

'Only one life 'twill soon be past;

Only what's done for Christ will last.'

'Only one life.' The still, small voice

Gently allures to the better choice,

Bidding me never let selfish aims

Overshadow my Saviour's claims

Give me, Saviour, a purpose deep,

In joy or sorrow Thy trust to keep;

And so through trouble, care and strife,

Glorify Thee in my daily life!

'Only one life, 'twill soon be past;

Only what's done for Christ will last.'"

—Selected

## HOW TO BEGIN THE NEW YEAR

Begin it with God.

Begin it in Faith.

Begin it in Hope.

Begin it with Love.

Begin it with Prayer.

Begin it with a determination to  
give your all to God.

## THOUGHTS ON HOLINESS

(Continued)

Text: Matt. 5:48.

This then is Christ's idea of His Holy religion. It is to make men like God, corresponding to Him, answering to Him. This is the aim and end of every part of it—to make men think as God thinks; to make men will as God wills; to make men do as God commands.

To think as God thinks—that is, to love God  
with all the mind.

To will as God wills—that is, to love God  
with all the heart.

To do what God commands—that is, to love  
God with all the strength.

And not only of Christianity is this the great aim. It is impossible to think of any true religion of which this is not the purpose—to be like God. This is religion in the angels; this was the religion of Paradise—a power sustaining and developing the likeness of God. This was the whole aim of the Jewish religion. Christianity is one with all these in its purpose.

But Christianity differs from all these in—  
The way in which that purpose is to be fulfilled.

The Son of God becomes the son of man that through Him the sons of men may become the sons of God. The great revelation that Christ makes is not of God only, but of God as OUR FATHER. This is the text of the Sermon on the Mount, "Your Father, which is in heaven." The relationship between God and Israel was the relationship of a covenant. God was the God of Abraham; Israel was the seed of Abraham. Our relationship to God is the relationship of a new nature. Born of God, we are His children, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Here lies the glorious possibility of perfection: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." Dwell upon it until the thoughts are filled with the mighty wonder of it, and the heart glows with adoring love, and all the soul is filled with its boundless promise. Herein lies not only the possibility of perfection, but the ground of this command and demand.

### The Starting Point

There are many earnest religious people who cannot help feeling that there is a lack somewhere in their religious life, for which they cannot account. That it should be so is a grief to them and a perplexity—yet so it is. Instead of finding religion cures all their cares, it is the one great burden which wearies them most.

Is it possible for us to put our finger upon the source of their trouble. I think it is. Let us claim the help of the Holy Spirit Who searches the deep places of the soul.

We have come pretty generally to this point, that the ground of our salvation is not in doing, nor in feeling, nor even in faith: the ground of our salvation is the finished work of our Saviour Jesus Christ—faith is only the beggar's hand that takes it."

(To be continued)