

IF I HAD ANOTHER YEAR TO LIVE:

TEXT: James 4:13-17 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Another day, another year, has come and gone and we look forward to another day, year, etc.
- B. Yet, as James points out we may not have another year.
- C. I hope to have many years but I don't know that.
- D. I am glad we change years every 365 days.
 - 1. Look back Gen. 41:6b ". . .I remember my faults this day."
 - 2. Look ahead and make resolutions.
 - a. Business take inventory-so should Christians.
 - b. Where are you and where do you want to go.
 - c. If we never purpose we never accomplish.
- E. Always make those plans (resolutions) with James 4:13-17 in mind.

IF I HAD ANOTHER YEAR TO LIVE:

I. BIBLE UPHOLDS RESOLVING OR PURPOSING.

- A. God Himself purposed.
 - 1. Isa. 14:24-27. The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, "Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, And as I have purposed, so it shall stand: That I will break the Assyrian in My land, And on My mountains tread him underfoot. Then his yoke shall be removed from them, And his burden removed from their shoulders. This is the purpose that is purposed against the whole earth, And this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. For the Lord of hosts has

purposed, And who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, And who will turn it back?"

2. Eph. 3:10-11. To the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

B. Daniel purposed in his heart- Dan. 1:8. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

C. Paul often purposed.

1. Acts 19:21 When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

2. Rom. 1:13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.

D. Others exhorted to purpose- 2 Cor. 9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

E. You should be careful what and how you make resolutions.

1. Ecc. 5:4-5. When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed-- Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.
2. Do not say I will or will not do this or that but I will try.

F. Low aim is a crime. (Cheat yourself)

1. Some say we are bound to succeed by aiming low.
2. If we expect to do "big things" must plan "big things."
3. If we fail, let us fail after we have tried.

II. SOME RESOLUTIONS WORTH MAKING.

A. To be more faithful in Church attendance.

1. Heb. 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

2. To neglect is a serious thing.

a. Heb. 2:2-3 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

b. Heb. 10:26-29 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

3. Should not let earthly friends (company) lead us from heavenly friends.

a. Matt. 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

b. Matt. 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

B. Faithful and liberal in giving.

1. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

2. 2 Cor. 9:6-7 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

C. To be more humble and unselfish.

1. Don't erect idol called self.

2. Notice.

a. Prov. 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

b. Jas. 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

c. Rom. 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

3. This is the secret of true greatness.

a. Matt. 18:1-4 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

b. Matt. 20:27-28 "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

D. To be more prayerful.

1. God is willing to listen- 1 Pet. 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

2. He has promised to answer.

a. Matt. 7:9-11 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

b. 1 Jn. 5:15. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

3. We are commanded to pray.

a. 1 Tim. 2:8. I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

b. Matt. 6:5-6 And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

4. Some thoughts on prayer.

a. Prayer may cause us to quit sinning- sin will cause us to quit praying.

b. Trouble drives us to prayer-prayer drives away trouble.

c. Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).Some cease w/o praying.

E. Study the Bible more.

1. Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

2. Rom. 15:4. For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

3. God wants us all to be saved so He gave us the Bible. 1 Tim. 2:3-4 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

4. About the Bible.

a. Average Bible has 1,000 to 1,500 pages.

b. 66 books.

c. 1,289 chapters.

d. 31,102 verses.

e. 773,746 words (average less than 5 letters).

- f. 3,556,480 letters.
- g. Yet it only takes 90 hours to read.
- h. That's 15 minutes each day=1 year.

F. If not a Christian, resolve to be one.

1. Road to hell paved with good intentions.

2. Deciding point must be reached sometime- Josh. 24:15. **“And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

G. What we do, do earnestly.

1. People do evil this way Mich. 7:3a **“That they may successfully do evil with both hands...”**

2. This should govern the righteous.

a. Jas. 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

b. Heb. 2:1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

c. Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

CONCLUSION:

A. This new year will be inscribed on many tombstones.

B. James 4:13-17 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.