

# I am Resolved

By Brent Paschall – [brent@brentnrachel.com](mailto:brent@brentnrachel.com)

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- I. Introduction
  - a. New Year's Resolutions
    - i. Lose Weight
    - ii. Exercise
    - iii. Eat better
    - iv. Read more
    - v. Learn new skill or activity
    - vi. Visit someplace or somebody
    - vii. Spend more time with family
  - b. Resolution
    - i. An earnest decision or determination
    - ii. To make up one's mind
  - c. The most important resolution is the spiritual resolution to seek after God
- II. KEY THOUGHT – The words of the song “I am Resolved” express this determination to seek after God in a scriptural and helpful way
- III. First verse – The decision to pursue higher things
  - a. No longer to linger
    - i. A resolution to be effective needs to involve immediate action
    - ii. To resolve to do something in 2013 would be a pretty useless resolution
    - iii. Certainly our spiritual commitments deserve our immediate attention
    - iv. If I have been putting off my efforts to serve Christ, I need to put an end to the delay
      - 1. I need to resolve no longer to linger
    - v. Why are you waiting? – Acts 22:16
  - b. Charmed by the world's delight
    - i. This world has many delightful things
    - ii. It is the source of many joys and pleasures
    - iii. Some are sinful
      - 1. Moses had to choose re: Egypt – Heb. 11:24-27
      - 2. He chose Christ
      - 3. Instead of the world's delight
    - iv. Many of the world's delights are not sinful
      - 1. They involve positive good
        - a. Home & family
        - b. Food, clothing and shelter
        - c. Health and prosperity
        - d. Vocations and pastimes
      - 2. Many of the resolutions we make are intended to take better advantage of the good things of this life

3. However, we can spend so much time and energy seeking the best this life has to offer, that we neglect what eternity has to offer
  4. Bodily exercise profits a little – 1 Tim. 4:7-8
  - v. To be charmed means to be pleased with something
    1. But it also has a sense which especially applicable here
    2. To act upon with a magical or compelling force
    3. If we have our minds set on flesh we cannot do the will of God – Rom. 8:5-8
  - vi. Friendship with the world is enmity with God – James 4:4
  - vii. If I have been charmed by this world I need to resolve no longer to be charmed by the world's delight
  - c. Higher and Nobler things
    - i. As good as the things of this world are, the things of Christ are much, much better
    - ii. God's ways are higher than man's ways – Isa. 55:8-9
    - iii. Think on things above – Col. 3:1-2
  - d. These have allured our sight
    - i. Allure – to attract with something desirable, to fascinate or charm
    - ii. When there is something alluring that we don't want to be distracted by, we actively seek to ignore it
    - iii. When it comes to desiring God
      1. We should encourage, invite, foster, feed and encourage any interest that we have in Him
        - a. Think about Him
        - b. Talk about Him
        - c. Read about Him
        - d. Talk to Him
        - e. Sing to Him
        - f. Listen to Him
        - g. Spend time with Him
      2. Since everything else that may allure our sight comes from Him
      3. Is He not the most fascinating and alluring thing in the universe?
    - iv. My soul longs for God – Ps. 42:1-2
- IV. 2<sup>nd</sup> Verse – Coming to Christ
- a. To go to the Savior
    - i. His presence and fellowship is the goal of this great resolution
    - ii. He is the Savior
      1. Saves from
        - a. sin
        - b. eternal punishment
        - c. the curse of a wasted life
      2. Saves for
        - a. Joy

- b. Peace
        - c. Love
        - d. Eternal life
        - e. Divine fellowship
      - iii. He wants us to come to Him – Matt. 11:28-30
    - b. Leaving my sin and strife
      - i. We must go to the Savior because we are not where he is
        - 1. We are in sin
        - 2. We are in strife
          - a. At war with God and man
      - ii. What are we losing when we do this?
        - 1. All things loss in comparison – Phil. 3:7-8
      - iii. What are we gaining?
        - 1. Christ Himself
    - c. The true and just One
      - i. True
        - 1. He cannot lie – Heb 6:18
        - 2. If it were not so, he would have told us – John 14:1-3
      - ii. Just
        - 1. Sinless
        - 2. Righteous
        - 3. Fair
        - 4. Merciful
    - d. The world of life
      - i. To who else would we go? John 6:67-69
    - e. If I am in sin and strife, I need to resolve to go to the Savior
- V. Verse 3 – Following Him
- a. To follow the Savior
    - i. To go to Him is good, to follow Him is better
    - ii. It is the test of discipleship John 10:27
  - b. Faithful and true
    - i. Faithful
      - 1. The reason we follow Him is because we believe in Him - faith
      - 2. That causes us to be faithful to Him –
        - a. strict or thorough in the performance of duty
        - b. true to one's word, promises, vows, etc.
        - c. steady in allegiance or affection; loyal; constant:
    - ii. True
      - 1. Honest, sincere
      - 2. Follow Him for the right reasons
        - a. No to impress others
        - b. To please Him
        - c. B/c of our great love for Him
        - d. B/C of His great love for us – 1 Jn. 4:19
  - c. Each Day

- i. Following him is A constant action
      - 1. Take up your cross daily Lk. 19:23
    - ii. No days-off
    - iii. No vacations
    - iv. No retirement
  - d. Heed what he says, do what he wills
    - i. Heed
      - 1. Listening and accept His teaching
      - 2. If God says it, we can believe it
    - ii. Do
      - 1. If God wishes it, we obey
      - 2. Know his will and do His will
    - iii. This is what it means to follow Him
  - e. He is the living way
    - i. The way, the truth and the life\*
    - ii. He is living way, and we follow Him by living His way
  - f. If I desire to be with Jesus here and in eternity, I need to resolve to follow the Savior
- VI. Fourth Verse – To enter the kingdom
  - a. To enter the kingdom –
    - i. Christ is the king
    - ii. The kingdom is comprised of his subjects – those who have subjected themselves to Him
    - iii. Into the kingdom of his dear son – Col. 1:13
  - b. Leaving the paths of sin
    - i. Sinners will not enter Rev 22:14-15
    - ii. Depart from iniquity\*
  - c. Opposition
    - i. Some will not understand or share our resolve
      - 1. Friends
        - a. Don't want to be too religious
        - b. Don't want you to be either
        - c. Constant pressure to compromise
      - 2. Foes
        - a. Satan does not want you in Christ's kingdom
        - b. He desires you to be a slave of sin
        - c. He and all his forces will try to stop you
        - d. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood\*
  - d. Still will I enter in
    - i. Nothing can stop us if we truly desire it
    - ii. B/C God wants us to enter
    - iii. Not willing that any should perish – 2 Pet. 3:9
    - iv. He is calling whoever wills to come
    - v. If God is for us, who can be against us Rom. 8:31
- VII. Chorus
  - a. Hasten

- b. So glad & free
- c. Jesus
  - i. Greatest
  - ii. Highest
- d. I will come to thee

VIII. Conclusion

- a. The Ethiopian Eunuch makes shows his resolve
  - i. The things of God attracted him
    - 1. To Jerusalem to worship
    - 2. To read Isaiah while traveling
    - 3. To ask for help
  - ii. He was determine to go to the Savior that Philip preached to him
    - 1. What hinders me
    - 2. He did not let anything deter him
    - 3. He did not linger any longer than necessary
    - 4. He hasten
  - iii. He entered the kingdom
    - 1. Glad and free
    - 2. Went on his way rejoicing
- b. Invitation