



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

December 30, 2018

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Yes, it's that time again. It is the time of year when we usually commit ourselves to several worthy goals. We do this because we want to make our lives and faith better. We want to improve and that is a worthy goal. I have noticed that most of our resolutions revolve around money, health and family.

While these are worthy goals, what would it look like if you could set the resolutions for the church or your family? I would venture to say that we would set a much more rounded, holistic set of resolutions. As I reflected on this question, I came up with a list that I think is a good start. It is not perfect by any means but these are the things I would like to see myself and others focus on.

Pray more – **I Thessalonians 5:17.**

Invest in your God-given talents – **I Timothy 4:14-15; Matthew 25:14-30.**

Get more intentional about evangelism – **I Corinthians 9:19-23.**

Care for yourself spiritually - **Philippians 3:12-16; Mark 6:31; Exodus 20:8-11.**

Be willing to make the tough decisions – **Acts 20:22-24.**

Confront the sin in your life – **Hebrews 12:1-2.**

Be forgiving of others and myself – **Matthew 6:14-15.**

Love people without boundaries – **I Corinthians 13:1-3.**

Quit comparing myself to others – **John 21:20-23; II Corinthians 10:12.**

Read more – **II Timothy 4:9, 13.**

Make family a priority – **Colossians 3:18-21.**

Stay focused on the Lord and His church – **Acts 2:42-47.**

Continue to grow – **Ephesians 4:15-16; II Peter 3:17-18.**

Treat others like I would like to be treated – **Matthew 7:12; Isaiah 1:16-17.**

Seek heavenly things above all else - **Colossians 3:1-2.**

This is a difficult list that could take a lifetime to master, and yet we are called to be Christ-like in every aspect of our life. Let's use our resolutions to ensure that we become the best Christians possible.

By Jeff Arnette

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

BEWARE OF SATAN'S NOSE AND FOOT!

The ancient Arabs had a saying: "Beware the camel's nose" which means that if we let one small undesirable situation occur, then there would soon be a worsening to a disastrous predicament. The context is that if you let a camel get his nose into the tent, the whole body would soon follow. In America, we have a similar saying in that if we let someone get "a foot in the door."

In addition to many applications, these proverbs can well warn us of the danger of letting Satan into our lives. Like the bulky, smelly camel or the persistent, annoying salesman, Satan can work himself into our lives, and if we give him the opportunity, he will lead us down a slippery slope. Consider these examples from Scripture.

Eve (Genesis 3:1-6) - Eve allowed herself to doubt the word of God. From there to downhill slide was very rapid. For then she looked at the forbidden fruit, took it, ate it, and finally gave it to her husband. She allowed just the tip of the nose of doubt into her mind, and before she knew it, Satan had ruined her whole life.

Achan (Joshua 7:1-26) - The people of Israel were forbidden to take any spoils of war. But Achan was tempted. In his confession he states that he saw, coveted, took, and finally hid the treasures. Notice how Satan got his foot in the door and kept forcing his way deeper and deeper into Achan's greedy nature.

David (II Samuel 11:1-27) - King David looked at a woman bathing, lusted after her, had an affair with her, tried to hide the sin, then conspired to murder her husband. Note the slippery slope of sin and disaster that David fell into after taking a few seemingly small steps of following Satan's temptation.

Christians, let us ever be wary of Satan's temptations and realize that we can quickly be lead astray if we give him the opportunity. Satan is a greedy creature; if we give him an inch, he will take a mile.

"...do not give the devil an opportunity...so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes" (Ephesians 4:27; II Corinthians 2:11).

By Edd Sterchi