**The First Baptist Church of Columbus**

**Dr. Paul Large, Pastor**

**Sermon Notes Outline for video posted January 3, 2021**

**T I T L E: Resolutions for the New Year**

**T E X T: Philippians 3:1-14**

**I. IT IS NOT UNCOMMON, NOR IS IT BIBLICAL FOR US CHRISTIANS TO ALLOW THE PAST OR THE PRESENT FOR THAT MATTER TO ROB US OF OUR JOY. 3:1**

A. Joy is a settled disposition of mind rooted in the sovereignty of God that finds reason to be at peace about the past or present regardless of the circumstances knowing that God is in control and will ultimately have the final word.

B. Happiness is more often than not related to our circumstances and as long as our circumstances are as we desire, we are happy.

Resolution: I will do my best in the new year not to allow my circumstances to rob me of my joy. I resolve to find a certain amount of peace of mind in the sovereignty of God.

**II. IT IS OBLIGATORY UPON THE CHURCH CORPORATELY AS WELL AS EACH MEMBER TO KNOW THE TRUTH IN PREPARATION TO STAND AGAINST FALSEHOOD WHICH IS A CONSTANT THREAT TO THE CHURCH IN ANY GENERATION. 3:2** (Apostolic Admonition)

“blepe” – watch out for (2); beware of — verb, 2nd person plural, present, active voice

1 Peter 3:15 ----but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

Paul always had the spiritual well-being of the church in mind.

A. There is a sense in which we Christians must exercise a certain amount of patience when it comes to informing others of the truth... repetition is a good teacher.

To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

B. Christians of today, like the apostle Paul, must have the best interest of the church in mind that is, the spiritual well-being of the church.

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES — 1 Chronicles 12:32 ---- Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command.

Resolution: I will do my best not to become the frog in the kettle when it comes to the truth of the scriptures and how they apply to our contemporary situation.

Book THE FROG IN THE KETTLE...WHAT CHRISTIANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE IN THE 21ST CENTURY...Will the Christian community be like the frog? Author George Barna

Book— We Will Not Be Silent— Erwin Lutzer

**III. IT IS ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE FOR THE CHURCH TO BE DOCTRINALLY SOUND ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO UNDERSTANDING AND PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL.**

**3:3-11**

A. Paul understood salvation to be by faith alone.

“.... the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ...

Asked by: Joseph from Illinois … Question to Erwin Lutzer --- I found out that salvation in Islam is founded on believing in and surrendering your will to God and nothing more. They say that God doesn’t need to sacrifice himself to atone for the sins of mankind because he can forgive anything he wants.

Will God forgive someone who doesn’t trust Christ and receive Him as their Savior—including Muslims who just submit themselves to God?

Well, there’s so much more that I could say Joseph, but the bottom line is simply this: that when Muslims believe that they will stand before God on the basis of their own record someday they will get their wish. They will be there based on their own record, but as the Bible indicates, “because all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” they will fall short of receiving God’s acceptance and God’s forgiveness. Keep in mind, Christ alone can give us the righteousness we need to stand in God’s holy presence.

B. Paul considered knowing Christ personally and intimately as the most valued endeavor in his life. (See verses 7-8)

Matthew 6:19–21 ---- 19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Resolution: I will do my best this new year to be doctrinally sound in my thinking and teaching and establishing, and keeping, Christ preeminent in my relationships.

**IV. IT IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR CHRISTIANS TO FORGET THE PAST IF THEY EXPECT TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THE PRESENT TOWARD REACHING GREATER SPIRITUAL MATURITY. 3:12-14**

A. Paul was resolute in his desire to know Christ more intimately

“...this one thing I do...”

B. Forgetting the past or those things he once thought of as invaluable were no longer comparable to knowing Christ nor were they allowed to become a hindrance to his spiritual development.

“Forgetting” present tense continuous action.

**Resolution:**

I will not allow the past to hinder my growth in Christ once I have repented, confessed, and been reconciled to those around me. 1 John 1:9