

## The Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards

**Resolution #37:** Resolved, to inquire every night, as I am going to bed, wherein I have been negligent, what sin I have committed, and wherein I have denied myself: also at the end of every week, month and year.

### Anchor Text: 2 Corinthians 13:5

Romans 8 reminds us that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. This truth has profound implications both for our assurance of salvation and for our courage to search our own hearts in order to discern any vestiges of sin. Today's resolution is motivated both by the Gospel hope of security in Christ and by our desire to honor Him in all arenas of our lives.

1. The anchor passage
  - a. Paul's admonition in 2 Corinthians is a very useful text for today's subject
  - b. There is no doubt that there is an admonition here for introspection but introspection with a purpose
    - i. Paul's desire for the Corinthians to examine themselves is not for their own exaltation nor is it for any kind of morbid introspection
    - ii. Instead, the goal was simply to identify the grace of Christ as active in their lives
    - iii. The goal is realization that Christ was present in the believer's lives
    - iv. The implication is that Jesus' presence would motivate to holiness
  - c. After all, if Christ is in us and working through us, shouldn't we have both confidence and motivation to follow Him? Stated differently, if Jesus really does dwell in us and empower us, there is no reason to fear nor avoid obedience
2. The obvious sins to see
  - a. You will notice here that Edwards begins his stated desire to look at his life by stating that he wishes to identify any sins he has committed
    - i. The obvious insinuation is that he is still guilty of sin... on a daily basis and therefore confession is imperative
    - ii. Folks, if we are not actively, and consistently, identifying and confessing the sins we have committed, we are not walking in the grace that God has provided us in Christ
  - b. Many people seem to be generally aware of their sins and struggles but comparatively few are seeking reconciliation and grace for the particular sins they commit
    - i. The problem is that we are not simply forgiven generally, instead we are to seek forgiveness for our specific sins
3. The sins we omit
  - a. What I love the most about this resolution is the inclusion of sins of omission
    - i. There are many sins that we perpetuate but there are numerous others that we neglect
      1. It is a sin to lie outright and it is also a sin to withhold the truth out of carnal motivation
      2. One sin is "out there" and the other is bound up in our own souls but both are serious

- 3. It is one thing to speak ill of someone or to take an item that is not ours, it is another to neglect seeking the Lord in prayer or leave our Bible unopened for weeks
    - ii. These sins are less obvious to the world and, oftentimes, less apparent to us but they are still very deadly!
    - iii. It is our joy and responsibility to trust that God's grace is sufficient AND that He desires our transformation in both what we have done and what we haven't done
  - b. When we sit down to examine our lives, we must be faithful to ask not only what we have done but what we should have done
    - i. May this lead to a depth of examination of our hearts that yields reasons to repent and find joyous grace in Christ