

The Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards

Resolution #42: Resolved, frequently to renew the dedication of myself to God, which was made at my baptism; which I solemnly renewed, when I was received into the communion of the church; and which I have solemnly re-made this twelfth day of January, 1722-23.

Anchor Text: 1 Corinthians 15:58

Today's resolution constitutes a simple reminder that we are to be in constant pursuit of renewed vigor in our pursuit of Christ.

1. The unfortunate assumption of our culture
 - a. It seems to me that many people view conversion and baptism as the “finish line” of their faith journey
 - b. Regardless of how often the necessity of a lifetime of obedience is mentioned, there are many who simply think that “getting saved” amounts to praying a prayer and getting dunked
 - i. The effect of this kind of thinking is obvious... many who think they are Christians today are quite deceived and many more have forfeited the blessing of a lifetime of intimacy with Christ
 - ii. Additionally, the Kingdom is not advanced at near the rate it could be for the reason that many of the laborers who should be in the field are busy hiding from the work!
2. The straightforward remedy
 - a. Today's passage is a reminder that the Christian life is not defined by one moment in time but by a lifetime of dedicated service to our Lord
 - b. Paul mentions here that believers are to be “always abounding”
 - i. The word always obviously denotes an ongoing, unending commitment
 - ii. Abounding is a term that means to “exceed” or to make an “abundance” of something
 - c. The point is that believers should be always dedicated to the work of the Lord and this dedication must be conscious
 - i. I have yet to meet a single, solitary soul that abounds with no effort
 - ii. To abound in the work of the Lord requires one to be committed to the work of the Lord!
 - iii. Furthermore, that commitment must be renewed and honored every day of our lives
 - d. When you wake up on a Tuesday morning, it is wise to contemplate the joyful obligation you have to serve the Lord

- e. When you consider your priorities, when you plan out your free time, when you think about your responsibilities as an evangelist, a spouse, a parent, a grandparent or the like, you must be aware that your fundamental task in life is to faithfully serve your Savior
- f. When was the last time you evaluated your life by this standard? In light of last week's resolution, I pray you will have the courage and faith to admit when you have not been faithful
 - i. Believe that God is gracious
 - ii. Trust that Christ's shed blood is enough
 - iii. Turn from your unfaithfulness
- g. Furthermore, in light of today's resolution, I pray that you will make it a point to renew your dedication to God
 - i. Turn from priorities/people that would draw you away from Him
 - ii. Organize your day around His Word and its commandments
 - iii. Spend time with those who will encourage you to be strong in your walk and hold you accountable when you stray
- h. In these things, we can steward our lives for God's glory!