

the true north sermon series

October 2002



A Look At The
Resolutions
of Jonathan Edwards

by

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True North Sermon #1

Dear Family at Camelback,

Last April, while at a conference, God sat me down next to Pastor Tim Presson from Texas. From the outset of our conversation I could tell that Tim was a man captured by the glory of God. As we talked, Tim shared the topic that he had chosen for his dissertation. My ears perked up as he shared a few details about the work God had enabled him to produce. I asked Tim if he would share his work with me, and he consented.

This summer I devoured Tim's dissertation, which focused on the writings of Jonathan Edwards as they related to a model of spirituality for the individual, family and church, which centers in the glory of God. It was nurturing reading for me.

Toward the back of the book, actually one of the appendices, I was intrigued by the "Resolutions" of Jonathan Edwards, which Tim had included and somewhat modified. I was taken by them first, because here before me were the heartfelt desires of a 19-21 year old. I think as you read them you'll be amazed by the intensity of desire that young Edwards had to be "a complete Christian." May his tribe increase!

I was also intrigued by what Tim had done with these resolutions. He had restated them in a contemporary fashion, added supporting Scripture, and for over half of the resolutions provided application questions. (I encourage you to write your own questions for the rest of them.) I thought that this might be a great tool to foster all our growth in Christ.

I would like to encourage each of us to utilize these resolutions in one or all of the following ways:

1. For individual devotion – Edwards reviewed these resolutions weekly, believing continual review and reflection necessary for truly implementing them in his life. I might encourage you to read reflectively one resolution with its accompanying scripture and questions each day. Ask God to use this discipline to make you a "complete Christian."
2. For family devotion – for families with older children you may wish to apply the same procedure. Read through one resolution, discuss the Scripture and application questions, and then pray back what you have learned to the Lord. Ask God to form Christ in each of your lives.
3. For church family devotion – the same procedure would be suitable for small groups, Sunday Morning Fellowships, and other discipleship groups within our body.

May your careful reading of these resolutions result in transformed living - living conformed to the image of Christ – all to the glory of our Lord.

Yours for your completeness in Christ,



Pastor Ron

A Look at the *Resolutions* Of Jonathan Edwards

by

Pastor Tim Presson*

*Taken from *The Development and Implementation of an Edwardsean Model of Christian Spirituality: The Pursuit of God's Glory in All Things*,
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An attempt is herein made to set forth the *Resolutions* of Jonathan Edwards within a contemporary framework and expression for the purposes of reflection, evaluation and application. While trying to restate his *Resolutions* in a contemporary fashion, an attempt has nonetheless been made to retain Edwards' original meaning and intent. Furthermore, supporting Scriptures have been supplied to aid in the development of family devotions based on Edwards' *Resolutions*. This aspect of the project has proven to be invaluable with regard to the personal spiritual growth of the individual researcher as well as that of his family.

Edwards wrote his *Resolutions* from December 18, 1722 to August 17, 1723. Indeed, they seem to have been practiced conscientiously the rest of his days. While in his first pastorate in New York, 1722-23, Edwards noted,

My longings after God and holiness were much increased. Pure and humble, holy and heavenly Christianity, appeared exceeding amiable to me. I felt a burning desire to be in everything a complete Christian; and conformed the blessed image of Christ; and that I might live, in all things, according to the pure, sweet and blessed rules of the gospel.

There was no part of creature holiness, that I had so great a sense of its loveliness, as humility, brokenness of heart, and poverty of spirit; and there was nothing that I so eagerly sought for. My heart panted after this, to be low before God, as in dust; that I might be nothing, and that God might be ALL, that I might become as a little child.¹

¹ Haroutunian, 404.

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Edwards begins his *Resolutions* by noting that they are that which he will need to remember to read over once a week. In other words, for them to have any lasting impact and application in his life, he recognized that they would have to be reiterated, reconsidered, and reapplied on a regular basis.

Resolution 1: That I will do that which I think to be most for God's glory and my own spiritual profit all of my days; to do whatever I think to be my spiritual responsibility, and most for the good of humanity; that I will do this, regardless of whatever difficulties might arise.

First Corinthians 10:31-- "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

This Pauline concept seems to have been at the heart of Edwards' first resolution. Are we truly preoccupied with that which pertains to God's glory?

First Timothy 4:8-- "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

Are we quick to consider that which will profit us spiritually, or are our values primarily focused on the fleeting interests of this world?

Matthew 10:39-- "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Are we willing to lose daily our lives for the sake of Christ... not merely in the sense of a willingness to physically die for Him, but more importantly, a willingness to die to ourselves that He might be our all in all?

Matthew 16:26-- "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?"

Is our primary interest and focus that which pertains to our eternal state and that of others, or that which will ultimately pass away? As Jim Elliot, the martyred missionary to the Auca Indians wrote in a diary entry, "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

Acts 20:22-23-- "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every

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city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.”

Is your preoccupation with your own welfare or the welfare of God's kingdom and His glory? Are you joyfully willing to face difficulties and suffering for the cause of Christ?

Resolution 2: To endeavor continually to discover those things that will help promote the first resolution.

Philippians 3:10, 12-- “I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death... Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”

Is it your earnest desire to know Christ more fully? Do you live as though you have been raised with Christ to live a new life? Have you discovered how to share in the fellowship of Christ sufferings (i.e., suffering for Him; suffering with those who suffer for Him; entering into His suffering, or grief, over sin)? Do you consistently and aggressively seek growth in your walk with the Lord?

Second Peter 3:18-- “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

Are you growing in your knowledge of God's Word and thus walking more completely in His grace?

Resolution 3: If I should ever fail and become lethargic in keeping any part of these Resolutions, to repent of all I can remember.

Second Thessalonians 3:13-- “And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right.”

Are you consistent in your time with the Lord, or are you sporadic?

Galatians 6:9-- “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Do you tend to want to give up regarding recurring sin, or do you continue to do battle against the sins of the flesh?

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Jeremiah 15:19-- “Therefore this is what the Lord says: ‘If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve Me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be My spokesman.’”

Do you recognize that need for consistent repentance in the Christian life? Do you practice it?

Acts 26:20b—“... I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.”

Do you evidence the hallmark of genuine repentance: a change in attitude and behavior?

Resolution 4: Never to do anything, inwardly or outwardly that does not give glory to God.

Colossians 3:23-24-- “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Do you truly recognize God’s glory as the ultimate issue in everything? Do you view even the most mundane things in life as an opportunity to render service to the Lord?

Resolution 5: Never to waste time, but rather to use it profitably.

Ephesians 5:15-16-- “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”

Do you exercise wise time management? Are you conscience of using the time the Lord has given you in a manner that pleases Him?

Psalms 31:15a—“My times are in your hands.”

Do you readily acknowledge and live as though the Lord is sovereign over the length of your life?

Resolution 6: To live life with all my strength as long as that life lasts.

Deuteronomy 6:5; Mark 12:30-- “Love the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

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Is your love for God that which issues forth from the very depth of your being?

Second Samuel 22:33-- "It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect."

Are you conscious of the fact that your strength is derived from the Lord?

Psalms 28:7a—"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped."

Do you actively and consistently trust the Lord for your strength?

Isaiah 40:31-- "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Do you find your daily strength and resolve in the Lord, or are you easily discouraged and tempted to give up?

Philippians 4:13-- "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

Do you trust in the absolute all-sufficiency of Christ's strength in you?

First Peter 4:11b—"If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

Do you seek to minister in your own strength, or is your ministry characterized by prayerful and faithful dependence upon the Lord?

Resolution 7: Never to do anything I would be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

Romans 14:10b, 12-- "For we will all stand before God's judgment seat... So then, each one of us will give an account of Himself to God."

Do you take into consideration the reality that every action, thought and word is subject to accountability before Almighty God?

First Corinthians 3:10b-13-- "But each one should be careful how he

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builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than what has already been laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work."

Is there a genuine realization in your life of what it will be like to stand before the One who has given Himself for you? Do you live in the awareness of that truth as you consider every thought and deed?

Resolution 8: To act, in every respect, both in speaking and doing, as if nobody had been as sinful as I, and as if I had committed the same sins, or had the same failings as others; and that I will let the knowledge of their failings promote nothing but shame in myself, and prove to be an occasion of my confessing my own sins and misery to God.

First John 1:9-- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Do you possess an awareness of the gravity of your own continuing sin as a believer?

First Timothy 1:15-- "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst."

Do you recognize your own sin as being as great or greater than that of others? Do you hate your own sin more than any other sin?

Resolution 9: To ponder often my own dying and the things that typically attend death.

Hebrews 9:27-- "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."

Do you consider the reality of the events pertaining to your own death; that is, do you contemplate the state of your soul before the Lord to whom you will give an account?

James 4:14b—"What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little

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while and then vanishes.”

Are you conscious life’s brevity in light of the magnitude of eternity? Do you often consider the astounding reality that God should even be mindful of you?

Resolution 10: When I feel pain, to think of the pains of martyrdom and of hell.

Romans 8:18-- “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

Do you put your own sufferings in their proper perspective (i.e., the glory that awaits you in the presence of God)?

Matthew 10:38-- “And anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

Are you willing not only to suffer the immediate death to your own sinful will and self, but also the death of your physical body for the sake of Christ?

Luke 16:23-24-- “In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’”

Do you earnestly consider the plight of all that are without the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you look upon people as eternal beings that will one day stand before the holy God?

Romans 9:3-4a—“For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel.”

Does the thought of an unbeliever’s eternal separation from God in hell burden your soul for their salvation?

Resolution 11: When I think of any logical development of truth concerning divine things, I will immediately do what I can to help resolve any existing discrepancies.

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Second Timothy 4:2-- “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction.”

Are you willing to confront lovingly yet firmly that which is in opposition to the teaching of Scripture?

Titus 1:9-- “He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”

Are you grounded enough in the Scripture that you are able to detect and correct those who teach that which is in contradiction to it?

First Peter 3:15-- “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

Are you able to give adequately an account for why you believe what you believe based on Scripture?

Jude 3-- “Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.”

Do you earnestly stand and contend for the one true faith?

Resolution 12: If I take delight in something as a gratification of pride or vanity, to discard it immediately.

First John 2:15-17-- “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

Are you able to resist the fleeting and momentary rewards of this world in exchange for the eternal rewards that await you?

Resolution 13: To be endeavoring to discover worthwhile objects of love

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and generosity.

Acts 20:35-- “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Do you freely express, by a sacrificial attitude, your love and generosity to those around you?

First John 3:17-18-- “If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”

Do you tangibly demonstrate your love for the one you cannot see by ministering to the needs of those you can see?

Resolution 14: Never to do anything out of revenge.

Leviticus 19:18-- “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself.”

Are you able to forgive offenses perpetrated against you or those you love? Are you honestly able to say that there is no one against whom you hold a grudge?

Romans 12:19-21-- “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is Mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.” On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Do you possess an attitude that seeks to retaliate against those who wrong you, or are you able to serve sacrificially even those who oppose you?

Resolution 15: Never to exercise any emotions of anger to irrational creatures.

Proverbs 29:11-- “A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.”

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Do you consistently maintain control of your anger by the Spirit of God?

Galatians 5:22a, 23a—“But the fruit of the Spirit is . . . self-control.”

Do you yield to the Spirit’s control in your life to such a degree that He bridles your emotions?

Resolution 16: Never to speak evil of anyone, so that it would tend toward dishonoring him, under any circumstance, except it be for some legitimately good reason.

Ephesians 4:29-- “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

Is your speech characterized by purity? Are you known as one who builds others up or tears others down? Are you an encourager to fellow believers?

Romans 12:21-- “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Are you easily lured into speaking against others, or do you resist such evil speaking?

Resolution 17: That I will live as I wish I had done when it comes time to die.

Second Timothy 4:6-8-- “For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.” If you were to die at this moment, would you be able to do so with a clear conscience? Are you currently living your life in such a manner that you will have no regrets when it comes time to die?

Resolution 18: To live, at all times, as I think in my most devout frame of mind, as when I have the clearest thinking of the things of the gospel, and the world which is to come.

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Second Corinthians 4:16-18-- “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Are you focused upon those things that are eternal in nature? Is your life built on and around what ultimately matters in God’s kingdom?

First Timothy 4:8b—“... godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

Where is the primary emphasis of your life: the external or the internal? Is your emphasis on the temporal or the eternal?

Resolution 19: Never to do anything that I would be afraid to do if I expected to hear the last trumpet sound within the hour.

First Thessalonians 4:16-17-- “For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”

Do you seek to live out each moment as though it might be your last? Do you sincerely seek to live your life for the pleasure of one?

Titus 2:12b-13-- “...live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

Does the imminent return of Jesus Christ serve as a motivation for you to live your life in a godly fashion?

Resolution 20: To maintain the strictest self-control in eating and drinking.

Romans 14:17-- “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Are you gluttonous, or do you display self-control in your eating and

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drinking habits? Do you live as though God's kingdom consisted of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit?

First Corinthians 6:19-20-- "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." Are you able to say truthfully that you seek to honor the Lord with your body? Are you conscientious concerning what you take into your body and how you treat and care it?

First Corinthians 10:31-- "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Do you seek to glorify God in all you do, including even what you eat and drink? Do you practice a healthy diet?

Galatians 5:22a, 23-- "But the fruit of the Spirit is... self-control."

Are your eating and drinking patterns characterized by self-control?

Resolution 21: Never to do anything which, if I saw it in another person, I would count as just reason for disliking him, or for thinking any less of him.

Ephesians 4:1-3-- "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Are you guilty of acting in a manner that you dislike in others? Do you seek to live a life in which you put the needs of others above your own?

Philippians 1:27-- "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."

Is your conduct such that it is becoming of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

First Timothy 4:12b-- "... set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

Does your life provide a godly example to those around you?

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Resolution 22: To endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness in the world which is to come as I possibly can, with all the power, might, vigor, and vehemence; indeed, violence, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way of which it can be thought.

Second Timothy 2:4-- “No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.”

Is the hallmark of your life that of storing up treasures in heaven to be laid before the Lord Jesus Christ?

First Corinthians 15:58-- “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Do you give yourself completely to the work of the Lord, thereby recognizing and living for what is of eternal value?

John 9:4-- “As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work.”

Is your service to the Lord marked by a sense of urgency concerning the imminency of his return?

Colossians 3:23-- “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”

Is your focus in ministry on bringing pleasure to the Lord or on pleasing people? Do you consider even the most menial tasks as being for God’s glory?

Resolution 23: Frequently to take some deliberate action which seems most unlikely to be done for the glory of God, and trace it back to the original intention, designs and ends of it; and if I find it not to be for God’s glory, to repute it as a violation of the fourth Resolution.

Lamentations 3:40-- “Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.”

Are you quick to examine your ways and repent of that which does not please the Lord?

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First Corinthians 10:31-- “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

Is the glory of God the preeminent factor of your life?

First Corinthians 11:28a—“A man ought to examine himself.”

Do you consistently carry out introspective examination of your walk with the Lord?

Resolution 24: Whenever I do any conspicuously evil action, to trace it back until I come to the original cause of it and then both carefully endeavor to do it no more, and to fight and pray with all my might against its original cause.

Psalms 139:23-- “Search me, O God, and know my heart.”

Do you spend necessary time in the Lord’s presence seeking the scrutinization of his Spirit? Do you earnestly desire him to point out your sin by the light of his Spirit?

Ephesians 6:10-- “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

Are you able to affirm honestly that you are a regular bearer of God’s armor? Do you stand strong in him and in his mighty power?

Resolution 25: To examine carefully and constantly what that one thing in me is which causes me in the least to doubt the love of God and to direct all my forces against it.

Romans 8:35-39-- “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Do you live your life in the constant awareness of God’s steadfast,

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constant, unconditional, and unbreakable love for you?

Resolution 26: To cast away anything that hinders my assurance.

First John 5:13-- "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

What is the basis of your assurance of salvation? Have you truly believed on the Lord Jesus Christ?

Hebrews 10:19-23-- "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful."

Does your life reflect the radiance of the one in whom you claim to place your faith and hope?

Resolution 27: Never willfully to omit anything, except when the omission is for the glory of God and frequently to examine my omissions.

James 4:17-- "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

Do you earnestly seek to refrain from that which does not honor Christ? Do you actively seek to do that which would glorify him?

Resolution 28: To study the Scriptures so steadfastly, constantly and frequently, that I may plainly perceive my growth in the knowledge of them.

Psalms 119:97-- "Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long."

Does the Word of God have a consistent place in your life? Do you seek the Lord in the scriptures each day?

Second Timothy 2:15-- "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly

handles the word of truth.”

Are you marked by consistently handling God’s Word correctly? Are you a diligent student of the scriptures?

Second Peter 3:18a—“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Is there a marked evidence of the grace of God in your life and the ever-increasing knowledge of his ways?

Resolution 29: Never to count that a prayer, nor to let that pass as a prayer, which is so made that I cannot hope that God will answer it; nor that as a confession which I cannot hope God will accept.

Psalm 6:9-- “The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer.”

Do your prayers reflect the nature and character of God? Are they acceptable to him?

Matthew 6:5-8-- “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to the Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

Do you spend regular time in secret prayer before the Lord?

Mark 11:24-- “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Is your prayer life marked by genuine faith?

First Peter 3:12-- “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Is your walk with the Lord such that he would incline his ear toward you when you pray?

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First John 1:9-- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Do you consistently come into agreement before the Lord about your sin?

Resolution 30: To strive to my utmost every week to be brought further in spirituality, and to a greater exercise of grace, than I was the week before.

Philippians 3:13-14-- "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Is your life marked by a diligent pursuit of spiritual growth?

Second Peter 3:18a—"But grow in the grace... of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Are you able to see consistent spiritual growth in your life on a daily basis?

Ephesians 4:13-- "Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Is there a marked spiritual maturity in your walk with the Lord?

Hebrews 5:13-14-- "Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

Are you feeding on the deeps truths of God's Word? Do you possess the ability to discern between good and evil?

James 1:4-- "Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Does your Christian life reflect endurance and perseverance?

Resolution 31: Never to say anything at all against anybody, except that which is perfectly agreeable to the highest degree of Christian honor, and of love to humanity, agreeable to the lowest humility and sense of my own faults and

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failings, and agreeable to the “Golden Rule”: Often when I have said anything against anyone, to bring it to, and try it strictly by the test of this Resolution.

Ephesians 4:29-- “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

Is your speech marked by spiritual integrity and purity? Do you seek to build up fellow believers in the faith?

James 3:9-10-- “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.”

Do you refrain from gossiping about, slandering, or maligning others?

Philippians 2:3-4-- “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Do you seek to put the needs of others above your own needs?

Romans 12:10-- “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

Do you humbly seek to honor others above yourself?

Matthew 7:12-- “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

Do you genuinely seek to treat other people as you would like them to treat you?

John 13:34-35-- “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Does your life radiate the mark of a true disciple: love for others?

Resolution 32: Strictly and firmly to be faithful to that with which God has entrusted me, so that Proverbs 20:6, “a faithful man who can find?” may be fulfilled in me.

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Matthew 25:21-- “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.’”

Is your life marked by faithful stewardship of God’s blessings?

First Corinthians 4:2-- “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

Are you trustworthy with that which God has given you?

Revelation 2:10c—“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Are you truly faithful to the Lord?

Resolution 33: To do always what I can towards making, maintaining, and establishing peace, when it can be done without detriment to God’s causes.

Matthew 5:9-- “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”

Are you a peacemaker?

Galatians 5:22-- “The fruit of the Spirit is... peace.”

Does your life exude God’s peace?

First Peter 3:10-11-- “For, ‘Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.’”

Do you seek after peace with others?

James 3:18-- “Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”

Is your life marked by sowing peace wherever you go?

Hebrews 12:14a—“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy.”

Do you set forth earnest effort to live at peace with others?

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Resolution 34: To never speak anything but the pure and simple truth in conversation.

Proverbs 12:22-- “The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in men who are truthful.”

Do you lie, or are you a truthful person?

Zechariah 8:16-- “These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment...”

Do you speak the truth to others?

Ephesians 4:15-- “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ.”

Are your words marked by truth spoken in love?

Resolution 35: Whenever I at all question whether or not I have done my duty, to the extent that my quiet and calm is disturbed, to set it down, and also how the question was resolved.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-- “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

Do you seek to fulfill your duty before the Lord regardless of its comfort level?

Acts 23:1-- “Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, ‘My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day.’”

Do you maintain a good conscience before the Lord as a result of fulfilling that which he has given you to do?

Resolution 36: Never to speak evil of any unless I have a particularly good reason for doing so.

Romans 12:17a—“Do not repay anyone evil for evil.”

Do you refuse to speak badly concerning others?

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1 Peter 3:9-- “Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.”

Do you desire God’s blessing even upon those who treat you badly?

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

Psalm 17:3-- “Though You probe my heart and examine me at night, though You test me, you will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.”

Do you seek cleansing from the Lord each day?

Psalm 26:2-- “Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind.”

Do you desire for the Lord to examine your heart and mind? Do you walk in repentance?

Jeremiah 17:10-- “I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.”

Do you spend regular time with the Lord allowing his Spirit to search your heart and mind?

Lamentations 3:40-42a—“Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord. Let us lift our hearts and our hands to God in heaven, and say: ‘We have sinned and rebelled...’”

Are you quick to confess your sin before the Lord and repent of it?

Resolution 38: To never speak anything that is ridiculous, or a matter of laughter, on the Lord’s Day.

Ephesians 5:4-- “Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.”

Is your speech yielded to the control of God’s Spirit?

Resolution 39: To never do anything that I, in the least, question the

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rightness of, in the sense that I would have to consider and examine afterwards if it were right or not, except if I would question the rightness of not doing it even more.

Isaiah 1:17-- "Learn to do right!"

Do you seek to do what is right?

Romans 12:17b-- "Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody."

Do you carefully consider what is the right thing to do in each situation?

Second Thessalonians 3:13-- "Never tire of doing what is right."

Is your life marked by consistency in doing what is right?

First Peter 3:16-- "keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."

Do have a clear conscience before the Lord concerning your behavior?

Resolution 40: To inquire every night before I go to bed, whether I have acted in the best way I possibly could with respect to eating and drinking.

First Corinthians 10:31-- "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Are your eating and drinking habits yielded to the Lord?

Resolution 41: To ask myself at the end of every day, week, month and year, where I could possibly have done better in any respect.

Second Peter 3:18-- "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Is there marked growth in your daily walk with the Lord?

Resolution 42: To renew frequently my dedication to God.

Proverbs 20:25-- "It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows."

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Ecclesiastes 4:1-2, 4-5-- “Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few... When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.”

Romans 12:1-- “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”

Resolution 43: To never, from now until I die, act as if I were in any way my own, but entirely and altogether God’s.

First Corinthians 6:19-20-- “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

John 15:19b—“As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world.”

Romans 1:6-- “And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.”

Romans 7:4-- “So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.”

Romans 14:8-- “If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.”

Galatians 5:24-- “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.”

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Resolution 44: That no other end but religion (i.e., spiritual growth) shall have any influence at all on any of my actions; and that no action shall be, in the least circumstance, anything but that spiritual growth will carry it.

Matthew 6:33-- “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Resolution 45: Never to allow any pleasure or grief, joy or sorrow, nor any emotion at all, nor any degree of emotion, nor any circumstance relating to it, but what helps spiritual growth.

First Timothy 4:8b—“... godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

Resolution 46: Never to allow the least measure of frustration or uneasiness at my father or mother. Resolved, to suffer no effects of it, so much as in the least alteration of speech, or look in my eye; and to be especially careful of it with respect to any of our family.

Exodus 20:12-- “Honor your father and your mother.”

Resolution 47: To endeavor to my utmost to deny whatever is not in agreement with a good, benevolent, quiet, peaceable, contented, easy, compassionate, generous, humble, meek, modest, submissive, obliging, diligent, industrious, loving, even, patient, moderate, forgiving, sincere temper; and to do at all times what such a temper would lead me to do. Examine strictly every week whether or not I have done so.

Hebrews 12:14-- “Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy.”

Proverbs 19:19-- “A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.”

Resolution 48: Constantly, with the utmost niceness and diligence, and the

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strictest scrutiny, to be looking into the state of my soul, that I may know whether I truly have an interest in Christ or not; that when it comes time to die, I may have no negligence within this area of which to repent.

Second Corinthians 13:5-- “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?”

Resolution 49: That this shall never be, if I can help it (cf., Resolution 48).

Resolution 50: I will act as I think I would judge would have been best and most wise when I come to the life hereafter.

Second Timothy 4:6-8-- “For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

Resolution 51: That I will act so in every respect, as I think I shall wish I had done, when it comes time to die (cf., Resolution 50).

Resolution 52: I frequently hear persons in old age say how they would live, if they were to live their lives over again; resolved, that I will live just as I think I would wish I had done, assuming I live to old age.

Ephesians 5:15-16-- “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”

Resolution 53: To improve every opportunity, when I am in the best and happiest frame of mind, to cast and venture my soul on the Lord Jesus Christ, to trust and confide in Him, and consecrate myself wholly to Him: that from this I may have assurance of my safety, knowing that I confide in my Redeemer.

Psalms 20:7b-- “...we trust in the name of the Lord our God.”

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Psalm 46:1-- “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

Psalm 56:4-- “In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?”

Psalm 91:2-- “I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”

Proverbs 18:10-- “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”

Resolution 54: Whenever I hear anything spoken in conversation of any person, if I think it would be praiseworthy in me, resolved to endeavor to imitate it.

First Thessalonians 1:6a—“You became imitators of us and of the Lord.”

Philippians 4:8-- “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Resolution 55: To endeavor to my utmost to act as I think I should if I had already seen the happiness of heaven and the torments of hell.

Second Corinthians 4:16-18-- “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen in temporal, but what is unseen in eternal.”

Philippians 3:20-- “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Second Peter 2:4, 9-- “For if God did not spare the angels when they

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sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment . . . if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.”

Second Peter 3:13-- “But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”

Resolution 56: Never to give over, or in the least to lessen in my fight with my sin, regardless of how unsuccessful I may be.

First Corinthians 9:26-27-- “Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

Second Corinthians 10:4-- “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

First Timothy 1:18-19-- “Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to the faith and a good conscience.”

Resolution 57: When I fear misfortunes and adversities, to examine whether I have done what I should have, and to resolve to do it; and let me be content to accept whatever may come just as Providence orders it; I will as far as I can, be concerned about nothing but my spiritual duty and my sin.

Romans 8:28-- “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

Philippians 4:11b—“... for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”

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Resolution 58: Not only to refrain from any attitude of dislike, fretfulness and anger in conversation, but to exhibit an attitude of love, cheerfulness and dignity.

Proverbs 15:1-- “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Colossians 4:6-- “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

Resolution 59: When I am most conscious of provocations to ill-naturedness and anger, that I will strive most to feel and act in a good-natured fashion; indeed, at all times to manifest such good-naturedness, though I think that in other respects it would be disadvantageous, and so as would be unwise at other times.

Philippians 4:5-- “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”

First Thessalonians 5:15b—“... always try to be kind to each other.”

Resolution 60: Whenever my feelings begin to appear in the least out of order, when I am conscious of the least uneasiness within, or the least inconsistency without, I will then subject myself to the strictest examination.

Psalms 26:2-3-- “Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.”

Resolution 61: That I will not give way to that listlessness that I find unbends and relaxes my mind, from being fully and fixedly set on spiritual growth, whatever excuse I may have for it—that what my listlessness inclines me to do is best to be done, etc.

Psalms 26:2-- “Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind.”

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Isaiah 26:3-- “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You.”

Philippians 3:19b-20a—“Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven.”

Resolution 62: Never to do anything but my spiritual duty; and then according to Ephesians 6:6-8 (i.e., “do it willingly and cheerfully as unto the Lord, and not to man; knowing that whatever good thing a man does, the same will he receive from the Lord”).

Resolution 63: Based on the presupposition that there was only to be one individual in the world, at any one time, who was properly a complete Christian in all respects, having Christianity always shining in its true luster and appearing excellent and lovely, from whatever part, and under whatever character viewed: Resolved, to act just as I would do, if I were striving with all my might to be that one who should so live in my lifetime.

Philippians 3:12b, 14-- “I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me . . . I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Resolution 64: When I encounter those “groanings which cannot be uttered” (cf., Romans 8:26), and those “longings which consume the soul” (cf., Psalm 119:20), that I will promote them to the utmost of my power, and that I will not be weary of earnestly endeavoring to vent my desires, nor of the repetitions of such earnestness.

Philippians 4:6-- “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Resolution 65: To exercise strongly all my life long, with the greatest openness of which I am capable, declaring my ways to God, and laying open my soul to Him: all my sins, temptations, difficulties, sorrows, fears, hopes, desires, and everything, and every circumstance.

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Psalm 38:18-- "I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin." Matthew 11:28-- "Come unto Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

1 John 1:9-- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Resolution 66: That I will endeavor always to keep a gracious aspect and attitude of acting and speaking, in all places, and amongst all people, unless it should so happen that duty requires otherwise.

Colossians 4:6-- "Let your conversation be always full of grace..."
Luke 17:3-- "If your brother sins, rebuke him."

Resolution 67: To inquire, after afflictions, how I might be made better by them and what good I might gain from them.

Romans 12:12-- "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Resolution 68: To confess honestly to myself all that which I find in myself, either infirmity or sin; and if it be what concerns spiritual growth, also to confess the whole case to God, and implore needed help.

Matthew 6:8b— "... your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."

Philippians 4:19-- "And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Resolution 69: Always to do that which I would wish I had done were I to see others do it.

Philippians 4:9a— "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice."

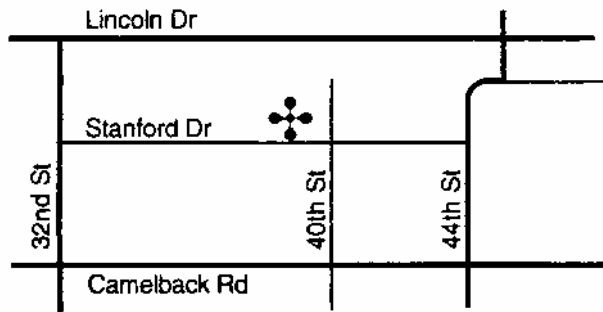
A Look at the *Resolutions* ...

Resolution 70: Let there be something of benevolence in all that I say.

Ephesians 4:32a—“Be kind and compassionate to one another.”

Date I Finished Reading This Sermon: _____

PERSONAL NOTES & APPLICATION



Camelback Bible Church

3900 East Stanford Drive
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Sunday School Classes for all ages – 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:40 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship – 6:00 p.m.

God-glorifying ...
Cross-centered ...
Life-transforming ...
... serving in our world
as Christ served in His.

In navigation, discovering 'true north' is about orienting one's self towards what is certain. In the journey of life, human beings find themselves doing this very thing: searching for a fixed point of reference that will guide them through the 'uncharted waters' of their existence. The Scriptures have revealed that God himself is our only certainty in an uncertain world. In all things, He desires that we look to Him, to Jesus Christ, in order to 'get our bearings'. The *True North Sermon Series* is intended to be a resource in pointing men and women towards the unchanging truths of God's word. May the message you hold in your hands, whether it comes from ten years ago or a thousand years ago, be used by God's Spirit to lead you towards life's only True North.

