

Fulfilling our New Year's Resolutions

The holiday season is now officially over. The time of overeating has been completed; and the time of New Year's resolutions has begun. It is time for many to go back to work. For others, it is off to school to finish out the school year. For each of us, it is time to resume our daily routine as we enter into the new year.

No matter where life takes us throughout this year, there is one thing that is for certain: we must continue our work for the Lord. Whether we remain in the same job or school, or whether we find ourselves in a different surrounding, we must be constant in our service to God. Paul reminds us to *"be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"* (I Cor. 15:58).

This passage teaches us a great deal about our work in the kingdom of God. It teaches us that this work is never complete. It is an ongoing process. It is a work that must be consistent, for Paul says that we must be steadfast and immovable. By implication, it teaches us that this work will not be easy. The easy thing to do would be to give up. However, we must constantly renew our determination to be faithful to God and to continue in His work.

One of the greatest things about this passage is the fact that Paul talks about our reward. He says that our *"labor is not in vain in the Lord."* There is a reward for our work. While it may sometimes be difficult to see that reward, God promises us that we will obtain it. In fact, the New Testament is full of passages that deal with our eternal home in heaven.

We know that this home cannot be taken away from us. Peter reminds us that it is *"an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you"* (I Pet. 1:4). Paul tells us that it is an eternal place, because when Christ appears, he says that *"we shall always be with the Lord"* (I Thes. 4:17). John says that it is a place that is for those who are faithful to Christ. *"There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life"* (Rev. 21:27). Even Jesus says that He has gone *"to prepare a place for"* us (Jn. 14:2). The point is that there is a reward for our labor (I Cor. 15:58).

Most of us have made some New Year's resolutions. Some of us have already broken some of those resolutions. May we always keep those resolutions that revolve around our service to the Father, knowing that there is a great reward waiting for us.