

NEWS & NOTES

THE SICK: *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home. ~ Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt, **Nadine Thompson**, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen. ~ Eric White's father, **Jim White**, continues his cancer treatments. ~ Judy Williams' mother **Flossie Kazzaire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette ~ **Jerry Dickey** is continuing to receive cancer treatments. ~ **Frances Resse**, Aric Butler's grandmother, in Brookings, Oregon is very sick with lung cancer. ~ **Others on the sick list include:** **Virginia Lovell** has Pneumonia and nodules on her lungs. Test should be back soon to determine what they are. ~ **Helen Trousdale**, is not well enough to get out.

Traveling: There may be many that will be traveling during this holiday season. Let us keep them in our prayers that they will return to us safe and sound.

Other News: There is a directory update on the table in the foyer.

Gospel Meeting: ELGIN HILLS will be having **Donnie Rader** presents lessons on "Marriage – Divorce – Remarriage: What does the Bible say?" Saturday, January 3rd at 6:00 PM.

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP: Tonight after our evening service will be the meeting time for "Group A". If you are in this group, be sure to attend this meeting.

FOR THE RECORD: (Week of December 21st)

Sunday:	
Bible Classes	107
Morning Worship	118
Evening Worship	99
Wednesday:	
Bible Classes	78

Schedule of Services

Sunday
 Bible Classes9:45 AM
 Morning Worship10:45 AM
 Evening Worship6:00 PM
 3rd Sunday Evening.....3:30 PM

Wednesday
 Bible Classes7:00 PM

Elders
 Michael Clemmons...(256) 247-0836
 Scottie Goode.....(931) 565-3391

Deacons
 Jimmy Glass.....(256) 247-0571
 Eddie J. Hammond...(256) 247-3038
 Mark McIntyre.....(256) 729-8316
 Steve Parker.....(256) 247-7843
 Phil Pressnell.....(256) 232-8509
 Rocky Rose.....(256) 247-0011
 Brian Word.....(931) 565-3799

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Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation..." **Romans 1:16**

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Anderson church of Christ
 5900 Highway 207
 Anderson, Alabama
 Visit Us On The Web
 Anderson-church.org

Men Privileged To Serve For the Week of Dec 28th:

BIBLE CLASSES

Song Leader – Jim Phillips
Bible Reading – Brian Word
Deuteronomy 29:1-9
Prayer – Jerry Dickey

MORNING WORSHIP

Song Leader – Jim Phillips
Prayer – Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
Presiding – Andrew Gatlin
Assisting – Jimmy Glass
Serving – Mark McCrary,
 Michael Word, Corey Goode,
 Rodney McCrary
Closing Prayer – Mark McIntyre

EVENING WORSHIP

Song Leader – Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading – Steve Parker
Deuteronomy 29:10-21
Prayer – Ronnie Phillips
Lord's Supper – Andrew Gatlin,
 Jimmy Glass
Closing Prayer – Aric Butler

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASSES

Song Leader – Kevin Chancellor
Prayer – Brian Blakely
Bible Reading – Rocky Rose
Deuteronomy 29:22-29
Invitation – Mark McIntyre
Closing Prayer – Phil Pressnell

Why I Hate New Year's Resolutions

Mark Roberts

That's a tough title, isn't it? Perhaps some will even be surprised by it, since I have preached sermons on resolutions Christians ought to make and encourage my family to make resolutions as well. Do I really hate New Year's resolutions?

Yes and no. I certainly don't dislike the idea of selfexamination, self-improvement or resolving to be a better disciple or better person. That seems to be a fine idea, and is in line with various biblical injunctions (see 2 Cor. 13:5). Why then am I "down" on New Year's resolutions?

First, because resolutions seem to often fall prey to the "diagnosis fallacy." This is the problem that arises when we confuse identifying our failings with doing something about them. I'm not sure when this fallacy first began to show itself but it seems like it appeared during the self-help rage several years back where the emphasis was on getting people to admit their problems. Made for TV movies about alcoholism would build to the climatic scene where the drunkard so long in denial would finally rise at an AA meeting and announce "My name is Joe, and I'm an alcoholic." To be sure admitting one has a problem is an essential and important step in defeating sin. I do not mean to denigrate AA or any who has gone through the painful scene I've described. However, standing up and saying "I'm an alcoholic" or "I'm lazy" or "I am materialistic" doesn't fix anything. It only marks the beginning to solving the problem. 2 Kings 23:3 records how Josiah promised God to serve Him fully and obey His law. 2 Kings 23:4ff then records how Josiah

ruthlessly purged the land of idolatry. In this case, admission and confession led directly to action!

Yet now we appear to have reached the point where any sin or weakness of character is supposedly dealt with by merely admitting it. That isn't so! Confession is good, but we must press on from there to good works. Thus I would argue that making a heap of resolutions on New Year's Day may make some feel temporarily better but such is worthless if we don't carry out those resolutions.

That idea brings me to the second problem I have with resolutions: *because of the way resolutions are treated we can come to conclude that making promises means very little.* People make resolutions on January 1 almost as a joke. "I'll lose some weight and exercise more" or "I'll read my Bible daily" are quickly and almost thoughtlessly said. There seems to be no meaning behind the words spoken, and less intention of really following through. Everyone is making resolutions so I make resolutions too, but since no one takes them seriously I don't have to either, right?

For the Christian, the answer is "Wrong!" When a Christian gives his word it has power because it binds him to that course of action. Psalm 15:4 speaks of how the godly person does as he promised even if it is more difficult and costly than he anticipated. Matthew 5:37 tells how a disciple need not "back up" his commitments with all kinds of oaths because his word is his bond, period. Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 even warns us not to vow to God and then fail to do as we have promised. God will not

overlook such, Solomon cautions. It would be better for us to simply not make resolutions than to make them and pretend that such do not matter.

When we make resolutions our integrity and honor and character are on the line. That ought not, I think, be treated in such a trivial way.

I don't really hate genuine, sincere New Year's resolutions. When we think carefully about how we can improve our walk with God and then make a determined effort to be a better disciple in 2005 than we were in 2004 that can be nothing but good. But I loathe thoughtless promises that temporarily assuage our conscience.

Are you serious about your resolutions? Looking for a starting point? For this issue of *Abundant Life* I asked Rusty Miller to update and revise some articles he wrote for a New Year's issue several years ago. His articles give you a good place to start if you're serious about your resolutions and your resolve to be a better servant this year. Let's get to it! – *From Abundant Life*

THE BIBLE IN SCHOOLS

In the late 1700's, Dr. Benjamin Rush, one of the signers of the U.S. Declaration of Independence and a founder of the first abolition society in America, wrote a *Defense of the Use of the Bible in Schools*. In stating his case, he assumed the following propositions:

1. That Christianity is the only true and perfect religion; and that in proportion as mankind adopt its

principles and obey its precepts they will be wise and happy.

2. That a better knowledge of this religion is to be acquired by reading the Bible than in any other way.

3. That the Bible contains more knowledge necessary to man in his present state than any other book in the world.

4. That knowledge is most durable, and religious instruction most useful, when imparted in early life.

5. That the Bible, when not read in schools, is seldom read in any subsequent period of life. Unfortunately, most educators do not feel this way today. So many children are growing up without the fundamental, moral instructions of the word of God. Many are growing up to despise the Lord and the things He teaches. But, as Christians, we should take to heart the exhortations of those propositions:

Do we believe that the Bible gives us the only true and living way to God, and that following such will make us happy? **Jn. 14:6; Phil. 4:4**

Do we read and study the Bible, knowing it is the only way to a true knowledge of the Lord? **Ac. 17:11**

Do we accept the Bible as the source of greater knowledge for living in our world than any other source? **Col. 1:9**

Are we diligently teaching our children while we have the opportunity to affect them the most? **Eph. 6:4**

Daily Bible Reading Schedule January

Genesis thru Exodus

- 1 – Genesis 1-2
- 2 – Genesis 3-5
- 3 – Genesis 6-8
- 4 – Genesis 10-11
- 5 – Genesis 12-14
- 6 – Genesis 15-17
- 7 – Genesis 18-20
- 8 – Genesis 21-24
- 9 – Genesis 25-28
- 10 – Genesis 27-30
- 11 – Genesis 31-33
- 12 – Genesis 34-36
- 13 – Genesis 37-38
- 14 – Genesis 39-41
- 15 – Genesis 42-43
- 16 – Genesis 44-46
- 17 – Genesis 48-47
- 18 – Genesis 48-50
- 19 – Exodus 1-2
- 20 – Exodus 3-8
- 21 – Exodus 7-10
- 22 – Exodus 11-12
- 23 – Exodus 13-16
- 24 – Exodus 18-18
- 25 – Exodus 18-20
- 26 – Exodus 21-24
- 27 – Exodus 25-27
- 28 – Exodus 28-28
- 29 – Exodus 30-31
- 30 – Exodus 32-34
- 31 – Exodus 35-40