

## *Everlasting Resolutions*

Micah 6:6-8

*Topical*

### 1. Introduction

- a. At this time of the year we, as Americans, make a handful of resolutions for the New Year.
  - b. The purpose of these resolutions is to make our lives deeper and more meaningful.
  - c. Here is a list of the most popular resolutions:
    - i. Lose weight
    - ii. Exercise
    - iii. Quit smoking
    - iv. Quit drinking
    - v. Get a new job
    - vi. Get out of debt
    - vii. Save money
    - viii. Eat healthier
    - ix. Get Organized
    - x. Spend more time with family
  - d. Of the top 25 resolutions made, and consequently broken, not one of them resolves to know God in a deeply intimate manner.
  - e. Our relationship with God, as a country, is in desperate need of work and this year we must resolve to draw near to the Sovereign God.
  - f. Let's see what the bible says:
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2. Verse 6 – Religiosity is never the answer – "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?
    - a. Our portion of Scripture starts with a rhetorical question—a question that the writer assumes all the readers already know the answer too.
      - i. It is heartbreaking to see, however, how many people in our time don't know that religiosity is not what God wants from us.
      - ii. Many people believe that some sort of sacrifice is what is needed to appease God, but that is not the case.
    - b. The author asks, "With what shall I come before the LORD,"
      - i. Here it is assumed that the reader understands that the LORD is magnificent and glorious, therefore man is inadequate.

- ii. **Resolve: Hebrews 1:3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
  - iii. and bow myself before God on high?
    - 1. God on high—it speaks about the exalted position of God.
    - 2. **Resolve: Psalms 97:9** For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
- 3. Verse 7 – Extravagance isn't what is needed – Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
  - a. Again we open with another rhetorical question to which the answer is assumed.
  - b. Again we find that in our culture we answer this question incorrectly.
  - c. Our affluence and extravagance does not impress God.
  - d. The richness of our hearts is what is required:
    - i. **Resolve: Deuteronomy 6:5-6** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (6) And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.
- 4. Verse 8 – Changed Lives – He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
  - a. God Himself informs us, the creation, as to what is good.
    - i. The command to do justice and to love encompass the second tablet of the Ten Commandments
    - ii. God has told us in His word – the books of Moses
    - iii. We must pay careful attention to what He tells us and live according to His words.
    - iv. To substitute anything else and redefine what is good according to our understanding is lunacy and idolatry.
      - 1. **Job 37:16** Do you know the balancing of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge,
      - 2. **Psalms 147:5** Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.
  - b. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
    - i. What does this mean?

1. Justice is rooted in the very nature of God.
  2. Justice – to do what is right
  3. To treat every situation in a way that is just and conforms to the very nature of God.
- ii. To do justice is:
    1. To give God His due
    2. To give our fellow man his due
    3. To give ourselves our due
  - iii. **Resolve: To do Justice**
- c. To love kindness,
    - i. To be guided in conduct to others by loving kindness.
    - ii. **Matthew 23:23** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.
    - iii. **Resolve: James 1:27** Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
  - d. To walk humbly with your God
    - i. To walk in obedience to God. To know Him and obey.
    - ii. **Resolve: 1 Samuel 15:22** And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

5. Benediction –

- a. **Matthew 22:37-40** And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment. (39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

6. Application:

- a. How will you apply what was learned today?