Determination to be Godly

Psalm 101:1-8
11-20-2019

INTRODUCTION:
Note the continual phrase: "I will" (v. 1-8)

*** All of us need to make the resolutions David did!**

6 Vital Resolutions:

I. I will guard my SONG (v. 1)
(A resolution about what I sing)

II. I will guard my STEPS (v. 2a)
(A resolution about where I go)

III. I will guard my HOME (v. 2b)
(A resolution about what I do)

IV. I will guard my EYES (v. 3)
(A resolution about what I see)

V. I will guard my HEART (v. 4)
(A resolution about what I am)

VI. I will guard my FRIENDS (v. 5-8)
A resolution about who I associate with)

A. Separate yourself from:
   1. The gossipers (v. 5a)
   2. The proud (v. 5b)
   3. The deceitful (v. 7a)
   4. The liars (v. 7b)
   5. The wicked (v. 8)

B. Associate with:
   1. The faithful (v. 6a)
   2. The righteous (v. 6b)

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INTRODUCTION:

The following two statements from Abraham Lincoln tell of his integrity leading a war-torn nation:

"I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth. I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me."

"I do the very best I know how; the very best I can; and I mean to keep on doing it to the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me will not amount to anything. If the end brings me out all wrong, then a legion of angels swearing I was right will make no difference."

Note the continual phrase: <u>"I will"</u> (v. 1-8)

Key words in Psalm 101 -

> "<u>I will</u>" (a good Psalm for "New Year's <u>Resolutions</u>"). The phrase shows the <u>determination</u> and <u>resolve</u> of David to please God.

He, like Daniel, <u>determined</u> in his heart that he would do and not do certain things.

We all need grit and backbone, courage and will power to firmly say within ourselves: "I will or will not do . . ." While all the time realizing that it will be by God's grace and power that we keep up with our resolutions.

You will never do what you do not <u>determine</u> to do!

This time of year many will make New Year's Resolutions to stop smoking, drinking, eating, drugs, etc.

***All of us need to make the <u>resolutions</u> David did!**

These resolutions involve David's desire to have a life of INTEGRITY.

6 Vital Resolutions to have Christian integrity and character:

I. I will guard my SONG (v. 1)
(A resolution about what I sing)

"I will sing . . . will I sing" - the repeated assertion shows the great determination David had to sing to God.

God exhorts us to such singing

Psalm 100:1-2

A Psalm of praise.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. [2] Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

"Mercy" = the loving loyalty of God. A hymn like: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" is what David has in mind.

"Judgment" = justice; the fairness, impartiality, equity of God. Hymns like "My God is a Righteous God" is what David had in mind.

"Unto Thee" - David's song is directed toward God

Psalm 40:2

He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

Col. 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

In Christian circles, a new teaching emerged in the mid-1960's which says that music is neutral (or "amoral"); only the words matter.

Music is a language which crosses all and is understood by all cultures and ages (young and old).

Music is a language (it has grammar, syntax, etc.). Being such, it can communicate a good or bad message, just as language can.

Music is a moral issue. A musical note by itself is amoral, just as a letter of the alphabet by itself is amoral. However, when combined, a message is produced which will communicate a thought or emotion which influences the morality of the one who hears or sees it.

Proofs that music affects people:

--"Music Therapy" is being prescribed by doctors who treat mental and psychological conditions such as depression and anxiety.

--"Mood music" is used in restaurants, stores, medical offices, drama, TV, and films to create a desired feeling within the listener.

--Studies have been conducted which show that unborn children in the womb, animals, and even plants can be affected and stimulated (for good or bad) by various styles of music.

Music (apart from the words) has an ability to manipulate emotions (both positively and negatively).

Wrong music can produce:

Nervousness (loud chaotic heavy metal rock)
Sensuality ("breathy" vocalization)
Lethargy (pure repetition of beat in Rap)

Good music can produce:

Calmness of spirit
Heart-felt worship of God
Joy

An important music maxim:

1. Music can influence any emotion
2. People have good and bad emotions (love, joy, peace/anger, depression, anxiety)
3. Therefore, music can be good or bad (depending on which emotions it stimulates)

Have your spiritual radar in working order when it comes to music.

Paul said: *"I will sing with the spirit; I will sing with the understanding also"* (I Cor. 14:16).

We need discerning ears.

Test what you hear (I Thes. 5:21-22).

The music should be aimed at <u>PRAISING</u> God

(II Chronicles 5:13b - *"It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in <u>praising</u> and <u>thanking</u> the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and <u>praised</u> the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever; that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD."*)
(Psalm 7:17 - *"I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness; and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.";* 18:49; 21:13; 27:6; 47:6-7; 68:4, 32; 150)

Christian music is a medium of <u>worship</u> (SEE: Rev. 5:8-12).

1. Does the music <u>glorify</u> God?

I Cor. 10:31 - *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do <u>all to the glory of God</u>"*

John 3:30 - *"He must increase, but I must decrease"*

(Sacred music was never intended by God to be an end in itself nor a means of entertainment, but a vehicle of worshipping and glorifying God and His truth)

Sacred music is <u>not</u> mainly for the purpose of evangelism or entertainment, but is a vehicle of worship, praise, edification, and the teaching of doctrine (Exod. 15:1, 2, 21, 21; I Chron. 15:27, 28; 16:9, 23; II Chron. 20:21, 22; Ps. 95:2; 105:2; Acts 16:25; Eph. 5:18, 19; Col. 3:16).

2. Is the music worthy of God's <u>dignity</u>?

Psalm 7:17 - *"I will praise the LORD <u>according to his righteousness</u>: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high."*

(Does it fit [suit] the holy character of God and His Word?)

--Does the music violate any of His attributes?
--Songs that are "drippy": or "trite" do not exalt God's surpassing greatness

(In song, we should praise His power [Ps. 21:13]; His holiness [Ps. 30:4]; His righteousness [Ps. 51:14]; His mercy [Ps. 59:16]; His name [Ps. 61:8, 66:2]; His works and ways [Rev. 15:3])

Is the music's <u>character</u> or <u>style</u> consistent with the message it claims to convey?

II. I will guard my <u>STEPS</u> (v. 2a)
(A resolution about where I <u>go</u>)

"I will behave myself" = I will follow the right path

"Perfect way" - the path that is upright; the blameless path. The road free from defilement and shame

Ps. 1:1 - "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

David recognizes that if he is to lead a blameless life, he would need God's help to do it. Hence he says: in v.2b:O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

Psalm 37:23-24

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. [24] Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.

III. I will guard my HOME (v. 2b)
(A resolution about what I do)

"I will walk within my house" - David's domestic resolution.

The easiest place to let your guard down, yet the place where you should be the most upright is in your home.

“Our families usually see us at our worst because we relax and let down our mask of good behavior. Often we do not treat our family members with he same respect and kindness we show t friends and business associates.” (Life Application Bible Note)
Above all people, your family needs you to be at your best behavior.

If wives spoke as well to their husbands as they do to their bosses (and vice/versa), marriages would never crumble.

"A perfect heart" - an upright, blameless, undefiled heart.

He does not say: "I will walk within my work place, or church (Temple), or neighborhood with a perfect heart; but within my house!"

ILLUS: of the necessity to lock the doors of your home in our society, because of potential danger outside.

In a similar way we need to guard our families from the attacks of the enemy (Satan and the world's system).

The family is under attack today! Satan has several weapons he is using to destroy marriages.

If you are a Christian who loves the Lord, his first tactic will be to:

1) Cool off your zeal for spiritual things

Other tactics:

2) To introduce wrong acquaintances (friends)

3) To twist (pervert) God's plan for a proper sexual relationship

4) To provoke you to say things to your mate that will badly hurt

5) To cause disunity in how you manage your money and children

IV. I will guard my EYES (v. 3)
(A resolution about what I see)

You remember more of what you see than any other of your five senses.

Anything you see makes a permanent impression on your soul. The information that passes through your eye gate indelibly inscribes a message onto your mind.

"I will (purposely) set no . . ." - many times we cannot help what comes across our path in the streets of NYC. But you can control what comes into your living room. You can control the magazines you read, the television you watch, the videos you rent, the books you buy.

A recent survey revealed that the average person in America takes in 5,000 messages per day (via radio, TV, billboards, advertisements, etc.).

"Wicked thing" - Hebrew = "belial." A wicked thing refers to a thing of Belial or a thing of Satan!

No Christian should tolerate such evil. If so, he will feel miserable, stained, dirty. For "What concord (agreement; common ground) hath Christ with Belial?" (II Cor. 6:15).

Turn off the sexual sewage drain

sexually explicit TV, video, magazines, music; don't go to certain beaches

In 1988 TV averaged "at least one sensual-arousing scene for every 40 minute segment" (Ronald E. Johnson, Fund. Journal). And according to Dr. James Dobson, this new TV season will be the worst ever.

Job 31:1 - "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?"

Mt 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Ps. 119:37 - "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way."

EX: the only thing the church father Chrysostum hated/feared was sin.

"I hate the work" - David is not saying that we should hate wicked people (EX: Mt. 5:44), but rather their wicked work (or deeds, actions, practices).

"Them that turn aside" = those who reveal their unbelief by deviating from the right way. Those who transgress and deliberately step all over God's laws.

"It shall not cleave to me" - David determines to not allow any evil work to cling to him. He would discard it or fling it away in horror like someone would throw away a leprous garment or a poisonous snake.

V. I will guard my HEART (v. 4) (A resolution about what I am)

"Froward" = perverse; deceitful;' false.

David is saying: I am resolved to be genuine, real, true, bonified, unhypocritical.

Many times we spend more time worrying and hiding what we are than being what we should be.

Prov. 11:20 - "They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are His delight."

Jesus said: Mt 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

A car may have a beautiful body, but if under the hood you have a greasy-grimy, blown-broken motor, you don't have much.

A girl may be a "knock out" with unblemished external beauty, but if in her heart purity is absent, she is nothing more than an empty shell, vain veneer, hollow plastic.

This mighty statement of Jesus in verse 8 was a rebuke to the mere outward, superficial, hypocritical religion of the Scribes and Pharisees.

"Heart" = kardia (Eng. cardiac, etc.) - "the chief organ of physical life ("for the life of the flesh is in the blood - Lev. 17:11), occupies the most important place in the human system. By an easy transition, the word came to stand for man's entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and the emotional elements. In other words, the heart is used figuratively for the hidden springs of the personal life." (Vine, p. 206-207).

"The heart is the center of the inner life of the person where all the spiritual forces and functions have their origin" (TDNT)

Our heart (kardia) is that inner aspect of man that **thinks** (Lk. 9:47), **reasons** (Mk. 2:6, 8), **ponders** (Lk. 2:19), **imagines** (Lk. 1:51), **remembers** (Lk. 1:66), **purposes** (II Cor. 9:7), **wonders** (Lk. 3:15), **determines** (Lk. 21:14), **questions** (Lk. 24:38), **believes** (Lk. 24:25; Acts 8:37; Ro. 10:9, 10), and **motivates** (Mk. 7:21).

The heart encompasses man's intellect (Mt. 13:15; Prov. 23:7); emotion (Jn. 16:22), and will (Ro. 6:17, Col. 3:15). It enables him to think, feel, and do.

The heart is your "hidden man" (I Pet. 3:4); the real you that lies deep beneath that part of you that everyone sees.

"I will not know a wicked person" - NOTE: The word person is italicized. The Hebrew reads: "I will know no evil" - speaking about David's desire to be internally pure; naive concerning experiencing evil.

I Cor. 14:20 - "Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."

Rom. 16:19 - "For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil."

VI. I will guard my <u>FRIENDS</u> (v. 5-8)
A resolution about who I <u>associate with</u>)

V. 6

In verses 6-8 David gives a manifesto of ethical standards for his administration, only perfectly practiced by the Messiah in His future kingdom (Ryrie note).

A. Separate yourself from:

1. The gossipers (v. 5a)
   "Privily slandereth" - to secretly gossip about someone

2. The proud (v. 5b)

3. The deceitful (v. 7a)

4. The liars (v. 7b)

5. The wicked (v. 8)

B. Associate with:

1. The faithful (v. 6a)

2. The righteous (v. 6b)

<u>Why</u> do I need friends?

1. Advice
   Prov. 15:22 - "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."

2. Encouragement
   Prov. 12:25 - "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad."

3. Help
   Prov. 27:17 - "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

4. Companionship
   Prov. 18:24 - "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

Who do I look for to be my friend?

1. Someone who is saved (II Cor. 6:14-17)

   2 Cor. 6:14-17
   Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? [16] And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [17] Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

2. Someone who evidences Godly wisdom

   Prov. 13:20 - "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

3. Someone who is not worldly

   James 4:4 - "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

4. Someone who will build me up, not tear me down

   Prov. 27:17 - "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

*Basically, someone who knows, loves, and obeys Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

Another Year Is Dawning

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

—Francis Ridley Havergal