Determined To Serve God

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 5th, 2020

Text: I Corinthians 2:1-5

### Intro

1. As one year fades into the archives of history, many people turn their attention on the New Year.
2. Many will make resolutions – most or all won’t be kept.
	1. Resolution: To declare one’s opinion, intent or purpose; determination (Webster’s).
3. While many resolutions are silly or in jest, there are resolutions that saints must keep if we are to spend eternity with God! (II Cor. 13:5: Examine yourselves!)
4. There are many things that can be said of the apostle Paul, but one that stands out is his *determination:*
	1. Before his conversion *(Acts 9:1-2)*
		1. He persecuted the church, “this Way to the death” *(Acts 22:4-5; 26:9-12).*
		2. Was on the way to Damascus with full authority from the “chief priests.”
	2. After his conversion *(Acts 20:17-24; Phil. 3:13-14)*
		1. He “did not shrink” from teaching “repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ” to both Jew and Gentile!
		2. He “forgot” his past and “pressed on” toward the prize of Christ.
		3. Gal. 1:10-24: Paul once tried to destroy the church and now was determined to preach the gospel wherever he could go! Many people only knew him as, “He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy” and God was glorified through his efforts!
		4. I Cor. 2:1-5: He “determined” to know nothing among them but Christ crucified; he did not get tangled in human wisdom but taught the gospel!
5. We can learn from Paul’s example and be determined to serve God!

#### Determined for Righteousness

* 1. Determination:
		1. “Decided, resolved; Firm, resolute.” *(Webster 7th College Dict.)*
		2. *G2919 krino:* To determine, resolve, decree; to be diligent.
	2. Examples:
		1. Joseph: Not to sin against God *(Gen. 39)*
		2. Daniel: To worship God, despite consequences *(Dan. 6)*
		3. Nehemiah: To rebuild the walls of Jerusalem despite great odds *(Neh. 2-4)*
		4. Paul:
			1. *II Cor. 11:* Despite his storms of life Paul was determined to be right before God and men, and suffered for Christ’s sake.
			2. His determination to do what was right (Phil. 3:9) led him to boldly declare to Timothy, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith” (II Tim. 4:6-8).
	3. Like Paul *(I Cor. 11:1),* are you ***determined*** to live righteously?

#### Determined to Do What Is Right

* 1. Many are determined, but not in the right thing:
		1. To do as they please *(Jud. 21:25: Israel)*
		2. To get their own way *(I Kings 1:5-18: Adonijah)*
		3. To do evil – even though they know better *(Acts 24:24-27: Felix & Drusilla)*
		4. To practice their own righteousness *(Rom. 10:1-3)*
		5. To have prominence *(III Jn. 9: Diotrephes)*
		6. To keep traditions *(Mt. 15:3: Pharisees and scribes)*
		7. To do as they think is right *(Acts 26:9; Gal. 1:12-13: Saul of Tarsus/Paul)*
	2. Determination must be guided by the word of God – Phil. 3:9
		1. *Gal. 1:10:* Paul was concerned about pleasing God, not men! (Jn. 15:18-19)
		2. *Gal. 1:23:* Paul was determined to preach the gospel he once tried to destroy, despite the great personal loss! *(Phil. 3:7-8; II Cor. 11)*
		3. *I Pet. 4:12-19:* Despite the circumstances or trials, saints must be those who entrust their souls to a “faithful Creator,” and “do what is right!”
		4. II Pet. 1:5: We are to be diligent in attaining moral excellence.
		5. Moral Excellence = Virtue (KJV, ESV).
			1. *G703 arête [ar-et'-ay]:* “properly, manliness (valor), i.e. excellence (intrinsic or attributed): praise, virtue.”
		6. Virtue = Determination to do what is right.
			1. Virtue: “conformity of one’s life and conduct to moral and ethical principles; moral excellence, rectitude; chastity; manly excellence, valor.” (Webster 7th)
		7. Must add “knowledge” to have virtue (I Thess. 2:13; 4:1).
	3. Like Paul, are you ***determined*** to do the right thing?

#### Determine to Serve God

* 1. Many people are determined to know many things:
		1. To know sports statistics
		2. To know useless trivia facts *(to amaze and astound at social gatherings)*
		3. To know human wisdom *(academia, ever a student)*
	2. ***Determine*** to know more of the word of God!
		1. Heb. 2:1-4: There will be no excuse for ignorance.
		2. Since it is our guide, we must be familiar with it:
			1. Ps. 119:105: It is a lamp to our feet.
			2. Ps. 119:104; Eph. 3:4-5: It gives understanding.
		3. II Tim. 2:15; II Pet. 1:10: It makes one approved.
	3. ***Determine*** to grow as a Christian!
		1. I Pet. 2:1-2; II Pet. 3:18: Two elements for growth: Food and Exercise.
		2. I Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:10: Love and stand for the truth!
	4. ***Determine*** to serve the Lord faithfully!
		+ 1. I Cor. 15:58: Be “always abounding in the work of the Lord…”
			2. Gal. 6:9: Service to the Lord is an ongoing endeavor, not a one-time act.
			3. II Tim. 4:6-8: Paul said, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith” and was secure in his future with God!
	5. ***Determine*** to get to Heaven!
		1. Acts 20:24; Phil. 3:13-14: Our lives must be spent on getting to Heaven.
		2. I Pet. 1:3-5: For the faithful, there is a reservation in Heaven *(II Tim. 4:8)*
	6. Like Paul, are you ***determined*** to serve God and reserve your crown in Heaven?

## Conclusion

1. If one is determined to get to heaven, that person will do all the things necessary to get there, despite the will of Self.
	1. The grace of God and our determination will get us there.
	2. We must be resolved (determined) to endure and do the will of the Lord.
	3. *Rev. 2:10:* To be faithful until death requires the resolve to follow the Lord, no matter what the storms of life bring, no matter the personal sacrifice.
	4. We must leave Self behind and follow the Savior.
2. We determine to do many things in life.
3. We ought to have Paul’s determination to do what is right no matter the cost!
4. Are you ***determined*** to serve God and get to Heaven?
5. If you are not a Christian, determine to serve Christ, repent of your sins and be baptized!
6. If a Christian in error, determine to do what is right, repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!