

10 WORTHY GOALS FOR 2005

(OR FOR ANY OTHER YEAR)

It is traditional for people to make New Year's resolutions. It is just as traditional to shatter those resolutions within the first two weeks of the new year. Perhaps if our goals were a bit more important we might be prone to stick with them until they became habits. So now, for your consideration, we offer the following 10 worthy goals.

1. **I will read my Bible every day.** Daily Bible reading is an excellent goal for any Christian. As we read, we drink deeply of the living water given by Jesus (John 4:10). The Christian is to study and show himself approved to God (2 Timothy 2:15). An annual schedule was provided last week. More are in the foyer. The best way to know God's word is to read God's word.
2. **I will memorize one or two verses of Scripture every week.** For many of us, memorization is not as easy as it once was. Nevertheless, one or two verses a week is a reasonable goal that is easily attainable. Memorization of Scripture causes one to hide God's word in his heart (Jeremiah 31:33). By memorizing only two verses a week, a Christian will command over 100 verses by the end of the year!
3. **I will read more Christian literature.** We would agree that there is ample "trash" available to every person every week. We are shocked every evening at the depravity of television and cable channels. What we may not know is that there is a wealth of sound Christian literature available to those who ask. Many such magazine, papers and books are free. Determine now to read more from sound and Godly writers.
4. **I will devote myself to frequent, regular prayer.** Prayer before meals is proper and good. But the disciple will also seek to walk with God through his prayer life every day. Set aside a time of private prayer everyday and release your concerns to Jehovah God.
5. **I will attend every service of the church.** The scheduled times of church services average about 5 hours a week at most. This is far less than we spend in school or at work for even one day. It is less time than we spend eating or sleeping, less time than we spend watching the news or sports every week. Will you resolve now to commit to a deeper faith by attending every possible service?
6. **I will invite someone to church every week.** Evangelism is a central part of what the church does (Matthew 28:18, 29; Mark 16:15, 16). You may have friends who have little accurate knowledge of the Lord's church. What better way to introduce them to simple New Testament worship than to extend an invitation?
7. **I will teach and baptize one person this year.** We sell ourselves short when we think we are unable to teach others. All that is necessary is to teach another person what you knew at your own baptism. There is no grander feeling than to know that you have had a part in teaching and converting one soul.
8. **I will increase my giving to the local church.** The work of the church simply cannot go on without you. God has wondrously blessed us with untold physical goods and treasures. Our Lord expects that we will return a portion of that to sustain the congregational work. Many, many people have been helped this past year because of your generosity. Will you do more?

9. **I will spend more time with my family.** Families are ever changing, ever growing. The young children you tucked into bed last night will soon leave the nest and begin families of their own. Don't allow regret to mark the years ahead when we bemoan the lost hours given instead to work and play. Your family deeply needs you now.
10. **I will begin regular home devotionals.** Let your family see that God really is central in your life. By beginning regular devotions now you create everlasting memories for your children and a heritage for your offspring. How greatly will your family profit from spending a few minutes in God's word every day.

As you can see, many of these goals contribute to other goals and build upon other goals. Each one is worthy of your time and will produce direct, tangible benefits rapidly. Without a doubt, it takes hard work to convert goals into realities and then into habits. But how rich would your life be if a year from now all of these goals and resolutions were daily habits?

May God bless each of us as we travel along life's path and seek to be more like Christ in every way.

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