

## Setting Goals (New Year's Resolutions)

It is crucial for us to be specific in setting goals that will bring us into a right relationship with God:

- A. Be more God-like (Live a life of love).
- B. Recognize the value of time (Do more for God).
- C. Do not become a slave to the past (Let go and let God).
- D. Establish Godly priorities (Big things first).
- E. Shun the evil of this world (Let your light shine).

To be a Christian is to be part of an intentional and committed community. It is not enough for us to make resolutions at the beginning of the year. Christianity requires us to, "*Resolve to grow in the grace and knowledge of the lord.*" (2 Peter 3:18 NKJV) We are doubly blessed because we have Christ as an example and God's inspired word to guide us in our resolve. Just as Paul instructed Timothy, we also should resolve to be diligent in our study of the scriptures. Christians never stop learning and a frequent, consistent study of scripture is essential to our growth. (2 Tim.2:15 NKJV) Finally, Peter instructs us to resolve to grow in our faith:

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. . . . Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."  
(2 Pet. 1:5-11 NKJV)

Pray that all of us will grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and receive God's blessings of a happy and prosperous New Year!

In service to our Lord,  
Rod Ellison (adapted)