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***I am Resolved***

*I am resolved no longer to linger,  
Charmed by the world's delight;  
Things that are higher, things that are nobler,  
These have allured my sight.*

*I am resolved to go to the Savior,  
Leaving my sin and strife;  
He is the true One,  
He is the just One,  
He hath the words of life.*

*I am resolved to follow the Savior,  
Faithful and true each day,  
Heed what He sayeth,  
Do what He willeth,  
He is the living way.*

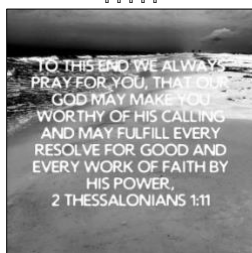
*I am resolved to enter the kingdom,  
Leaving the paths of sin;  
Friends may oppose me,  
Foes may beset me,  
Still will I enter in.*

***Refrain:***

*I will hasten to Him,  
Hasten so glad and free,  
Jesus, greatest, highest,  
I will come to Thee.*

**WORDS:** Palmer Hartsough (w. 1896)

**MUSIC:** James H. Fillmore (w 1896)



**Resolve to Honor His Name**

*“And now, you priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honor my name,” says the LORD Almighty, “I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not resolved to honor me.” Malachi 2:1-2*

God expected his priests to honor His name. He was not happy with them when they failed to do so. Peter tells us in his first letter that as Christians, we are now priests, with direct access to the throne of God through prayer. *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”* 1 Peter 2:9

We have a great responsibility as Christians to honor God’s name in everything we do. We can’t be “Sunday only” Christians and be the kind of influence on our friends that would bring them to Christ. We have to be serious in our conviction and in our daily choices, to show the world that God is the Creator and Maker of all things, and that because of our failures, He had to send His Son into this world to redeem us so we can live throughout eternity in the presence of God.

We can’t adopt the feeling of entitlement which would tell us God owes us His blessings and a place in heaven with Him. We must honor His name in all that we do and live humbly because Jesus was willing to take our place on that cross.

As this new year begins, let us look at the year behind us to see how God worked in our lives. Then as we look forward to what the new year may bring, let us resolve to honor God’s name in everything we do. Let’s spend time in His Word and read again how Jesus glorified His Father by obeying His commands in all that He did. Even though He asked for “the cup” to be taken from Him, He

was willing to drink of it and sacrifice His life for us. Let us dedicate this year to honoring God's name.

Lorna Smith, Lubbock, TX



## A Time for Reflection, a Time for Planning and Resolve

Solomon said, "There is a time..." The beginning of a new year is always exciting. It is a time for reflecting on the year just passed and a time for planning for the year just beginning.

What goals and dreams did you have as 2019 began? Did you accomplish all of them? Did you accomplish *some* of them? Did you achieve *none* of them? How did the past year surprise you? What unexpected blessings came your way? What fears and sorrow did you experience?



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No one wants to get stuck analyzing the past, for it is gone and cannot be changed. However, the year to come holds great promise. When you look ahead, what are your plans, your hopes, your dreams? Do you dream big dreams and find a way to achieve them, or at least to get as close to them as you can get? Do you get frustrated ten days into the new year, throw up your hands and think there's no point to goals and dreams?

If that has been your pattern in the past, perhaps you can change the direction of your life in 2020. Now is the time for serious thought about the person you want to be at the end of 2020. Perhaps you need someone to hold you accountable for the plans you make. Ask your husband or wife to be that person, or ask your closest friend.

This is a serious time for each of us, and it is a time to make a fresh start. Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 3, "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven." Take this time to set goals and plan how to achieve them. It has also been said that if you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time. Let's avoid aimlessly wandering through the year. Have a plan. If you find yourself off track, redirect your activities and your attitude so you can get back on the right track. At the end of 2020, you will have accomplishments for which to be thankful and a greater resolve to move forward again in the following year.

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, MO



## Untitled Poem

I may be homeless now, but that's gonna change  
I'm gonna make something of myself, one of these days  
It may be a slow process, but I'm starting it now  
But before I begin, I'll get on my knees and bow down

God's giving me a chance and I'm gonna take it  
And for His mercy I will graciously thank Him  
He is reopening doors that I violently closed  
And where I've burned a bridge, He's paved me a road

See I never really thought I'd desire a change  
I thought I'd always wanna play them street games  
You know runnin' around just tryin' to hit a lick  
Even if it meant turnin' a really cheap trick

I gave into the flesh, see the devil took control  
But I'm a give myself to God for Him to mold  
See He is the Potter and I am the clay  
I want to know the Lord so I know I must pray

I'm scared to let Him in, because I know I'm not right  
It's hard to explain, but I don't walk by the Light  
It's not 'cause I don't want to, 'cause I really do  
But, I'm just really so freakin' gosh darn confused

How He could die for me... makes no sense, I just do not see...

But, I'll say one thing, I will sure obey Him, if He'll accept me.

Written by a client of River City Ministry,  
North Little Rock, AR



God will make you worthy  
of His calling  
and fulfill every resolve for good  
and every work of faith by His power  
*2 Thessalonians 1:11*



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