



Shiloh Messenger

January 2013

New Year Resolution

"As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him," Colossians 2:6.

It seems like when ever a new year roles around, some people make resolutions. Even though well intended, very few accomplish what they set out to do. Why? It is my experience that there was not a resolve to see it come to fruition. When we fail at something, we often make excuses and justify our failures. The truth is we were negligent in our pursuit of the resolution. It does not mean that we could not do it, we just lost the desire to see it through. It some how lost its importance. There is no mistake that all of us have in us a desire to live a satisfied and enjoyable life. Is that not why we make resolutions anyway? Is there more to be had? We have this knowing that there is. So we set a course for discovery. King Solomon was on that journey also, we read about his pursuit of a satisfied life in **Ecclesiastes 1:13-14**. He says; **"And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind."** Solomon's perspective after analyzing his pursuit of a satisfied life was, that it is meaningless without God's involvement. If we seek Him with a pure heart, He will give us wisdom for the issues of life (James 1:5). When we read about the life of Solomon, we see that he started strong, because his motives were pure in his pursuit of being a Godly King (he asked for wisdom to lead Israel; 1Kings 3:9). The problem is he compromised and failed to be strong in moral excellence. His life had become a failure because he allowed the lust for the world to dominate his personal life. He had lost his resolve in discovery of all that was in him.

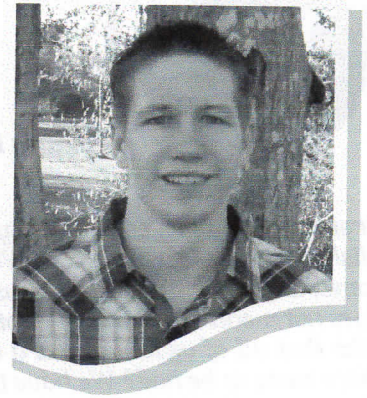
Because of God's ownership or "copyright" (Gen. 1:26) to our lives, only He can instruct us to the direction that leads to life. At conception we are destined for greatness. It is in us. Each and everyone of us is on a discovery to find out Who's we are. We need to look no further than to **Psalms 139:13-17** **"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! Check out what the Holy Spirit just said about us, "in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me." In the book of life is our story. It is already written about what we are to become. No wonder "deep calls out," destiny is crying out and awaiting fulfillment. No wonder we make resolutions. There are things in us awaiting fulfillment!**

In humanities quest for a fulfilled life that demands to be satisfied. Christ Jesus is the spiritual drink that humanity needs. He is living water. The world and its polluted system will never satisfy a thirsty soul who longs for pure water. In John 4:7-23 is a story of a woman who lived in Samaria. This story reveals her many disappointments in relationships that took place in her life. This woman was saying to herself "just one more lover; maybe this lover is the one? I am resolved to keep this one." The story goes on to read that Jesus pulled truth from her that she had 5 other husbands and the one she was living with was not even a husband. She was looking for love in all the wrong places. She was putting herself out there to be loved. Hoping something or someone would happen by to make her complete. Here was her encounter with the One, who can satisfy everyone's thirst from the pilgrimage of life. **"Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life," John 4:13-14.** One can only imagine God's frustration with a world that rejects the Solution to its ills. Christ Jesus is our Healer (Is. 53:5). All that He did at Calvary when He hung on the Cross and said it is "finished" (Jn. 19:30), was meant to make us complete. Nothing missing, nothing lacking.

I believe when we meditate upon the Word of God and allow the presence of the Holy Spirit to examine our lives, He will direct us into the excellent life we all long for. Read what the Lord offers as His Resolution for a excellent life; **"For He will light my lamp; The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places. He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip. I have pursued my enemies and overtaken them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed," Psalms 18:28-37.** May we all pursue the giver of life and be in agreement with what has been spoken about us. Heavenly Father, my resolution for this year is to walk humbly in the Presence of Jesus Christ, in order for the Holy Spirit to manifest Your love for humanity. Amen!

Students Testimony

My name is Nathan Kneupper. I am 24 years old, and I am a Blood Bought son of God. I grew up with a loving Christian family and spent a lot of time in Church growing up. I ended up walking away from The Lord in high school however. All my friends from school did not go to Church, so my parents made me hang out with some "good" guys from Church and when I did I noticed that they drank and smoked just as much as my normal friends did. So, I thought to myself, "What's the point in this if they are no different from the World?" I lost my faith in the Church, but I never let go of my love and faith in God. Because of God's love for me and a loving family and their prayers, I ended up here at Shiloh Ministries. I have always stood on 1 Corinthians 13:8 "Love never fails, and it does not." Now, I consider myself "dead to sin, but alive to God In Christ Jesus," Romans 6:11. I now have a heart set a blaze to tell the World what HE has done. **"Give thanks to The Lord and proclaim His Greatness. Let the whole world know what HE has done," Psalm 105:1.**



My name is Myron Richardson, and I am from the Dallas Fort worth area. Prior to coming to Shiloh, I lived a life filled with darkness. Being born and raised in a poverty stricken environment, with an absent father was normal in my situation. Even though, I accepted Christ as a kid, I had no true understanding on whom Jesus really was. At an early age, I developed anger problems and became very rebellious and violent; these problems would soon lead me down the wrong path, which constantly caused me to make wrong decisions. Before, I knew it, I was living a lifestyle of crime, drug abuse, and violence. Being a survivor of serious car accidents, gunshot wounds, stabbings, and a number of other brushings with death, I began to feel invincible. The most detestable thing about my lifestyle was that I enjoyed it. Eventually the enjoyment turned into misery. Considering my lifestyle, from the outside, things seemed to have been going well for me, however on the inside, my soul cried out a different story. My soul was desperately crying out for help. In my search for help, I turned to more drugs, family, friends, and women. They were all to no avail in what my soul searched for. Finally after being released from the hospital from a PCP overdose on 2-10-11, I had reached the lowest point of my life. With nowhere else to turn to, I decided to turn to God. I broke down and asked The Lord to forgive



me of my sins and to take over my life. I knew that I could not continue to live on my own anymore. God was waiting on me. I immediately heard a voice in my heart, telling me that my life would never be the same. Within a month of overdosing on PCP, a route opened up that lead me to Shiloh Ministries. Since arriving at Shiloh, my life has changed directions. I had no idea that I would be encountered by The Holy Spirit in such a way that I have been at Shiloh. I have developed a relationship with The Holy Spirit that has been priceless. HE has become my best Friend, Comforter, Counselor, Guidance, Strength and so much more. Through HIM, I am learning to renew my mind, break strongholds, and conquer fear and a host of other things. Anger, anxiety, and frustration are being replaced by Joy, Peace and Freedom. Having been delivered from so many bondages, I realize there was more strongholds to be delivered from. Therefore, I have committed my life to living for The Lord. Understanding that I am on a journey of a lifetime, I refer to Phil. 3:13-14 for inspiration. I thank God for placing me at Shiloh. I have been surrounded by Godly people of encouragement. I have received my GED with the help of Mrs. Barbara Page. I am working toward an Associate degree in Theology upon my graduation. All honor and Glory goes to MY God, Lord, and Savior. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to experience Shiloh. In **Phil. 1:6** Paul tells us **"to be confident in the Lord, for HE will finish the work that HE started in me."** I thank The Lord daily for HIS attributes that saved my life, knowing that the past has been cleared by The Blood of Jesus. I remain excited about the future, and being able to tell people about what The Lord has done for me.

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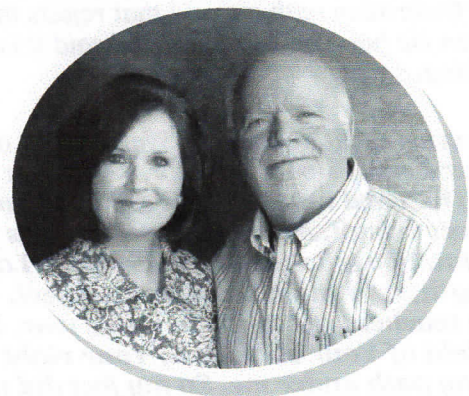
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