

# New Year's 2025

December 29, 2024

## I. Introduction

- A. This is a team meeting.
- B. My goal is to be clear versus careful
- C. New Year's resolutions are proof that people want change in their lives.
- D. The Bible warns against not keeping vows. (Ecclesiastes 5:4, 5)
- E. Complete this sentence: "My life would be much better if only..."
- F. Common answers to above statement:
  - ... I had not married her/him.
  - ... I had a better job.
  - ... I was healthier.
  - ... I was better looking.
- G. My premise/goal: My life would be much better if only I were a more godly man or woman!
- H. You and I are our own worst enemy. Charles Swindoll puts it this way: "If I were to kick in the seat of the pants the person that caused me the greatest amount of trouble, I would not be able to sit down."
- I. Be sure to understand yourself
  1. When we experience "personal pain" we usually turn to "physical pleasure."
  2. We have a God-shaped vacuum that only He can fill.
  3. We have a great need for security and significance.
  4. Immediate pleasure normally leads to long term pain, and vice versa.

## II. Two Types of Problems

- A. Those that are self-inflicted. We will focus on these today.
  1. See: Galatians 6:7
  2. See: I Peter 2:11
  3. We normally agree that heavy smoking, drinking, eating, etc. lead to poor health.

4. We do not, however, realize that immorality (apart from its physical dangers) also does damage to our body and person.
  5. Every time you and I violate our conscience and/or say "no" to God, we do damage to our body and emotions.
- B. Those that come from other people or things.
    1. First and foremost, we must accept the fact that nothing comes into my life without God's approval. See Job 1; Psalm 115:3; Acts 17:24-28
    2. God allows such things for His glory (John 9:3 and 11:4) and our growth (Romans 5:1-5; James 1:2-4).

## III. What Our Self-Inflicted Problems Lead To

- A. God not answering our prayers
  1. The problem: Malachi 2:13-14a
  2. The cause
    - a. The failure of the priests (1:6-14)
    - b. The failure to reconcile with your brother (2:10)
    - c. Failing to adhere to God's rules on marriage (2:11)
    - d. Failure to honor marriage commitments (2:14-16)  
This always hurts the children (v. 15)
    - e. Failure morally (3:5)
    - f. Failure to give (3:7-12)
    - g. failure to persevere (3:13-15)
- B. The Challenge
  1. Forsake our sin; nail it to the cross (Psalm 139:23, 24)
  2. Commit to God those things He would have you do.
- C. Live Right in 2019
  - R – Read the Bible Daily
  - I – Intercede in prayer
  - G – Give Cheerfully
  - H – Have a regular Ministry
  - T – Tell others about Jesus