“I Am Resolved”
Luke 16:4

Introduction:
A. A new year, a new century and new millennium.
   1. We are impressed with the thought of time.
      a. Not important to God, because he has all of it. (2 Pet. 3:8).
      b. Very important to man, because he has so little of it (Job. 14:1,2; Eph. 5:13)
   2. A time to take stock.
      a. Of our blessings – “thou crownest the year with thy goodness” (Psa. 65:11)
      b. Of our church work – the progress or lack of it.
      c. Of our personal lives – for better or for worse.
   3. A time for making resolutions.
B. Three New Year’s resolutions we can make to benefit us and those around us.

Discussion:
I. “I Am Resolved” to Be Better.
   A. By laying aside weights of past (Heb. 12:1; 1 Pet. 2:1)
      1. Lukewarmness (Rev. 3:15, 16)
      2. Worldliness (Mk. 4:19)
   B. By constantly improving ourselves (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet 3:18)
   C. By constantly improving our more important skills (cf. Heb. 5:13)
      1. Participation in church work.
      2. Participation in family responsibilities – Husbands, wives, parents, children.
      3. Resisting the devil (Jas. 4:7) – Farmer’s fight with stinginess.

II. “I Am Resolved” to Be Happier.
   A. By making up our minds to be happy.
      1. Someone said, “One is about as happy as he makes us his mind to be.”
      2. Keep minds occupied with good thoughts (Phil. 4:8).
   B. By turning to Lord more (Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Pet. 5:7; Matt. 6:33,34)
   C. By eliminating “happiness robbers.”
      1. Envy, jealousy, resentment.
      2. Covetousness or greed
      3. Hatred.
      4. Evil suspicions
      5. Chronic fault-finding.
      6. Over sensitivity

III. “I Am Resolved” to Be Meeker.
   A. Meekness is not weakness.
      1. Moses (Num. 12:3)
      2. Christ (Matt. 11:29; 2 Cor. 10:1)
   B. Meekness is wilful submission of ourselves to another.
      1. The opposite of arrogance and self-willed.
      2. Submission to the will of God in obedience.
      3. Submission to all legitimate authority (Eph. 5:21ff)
      4. Submission to one another (1 Pet. 5:5)

Conclusion:
A. Why not resolve to enter the new year meekly obeying God?
B. Why not obey him in baptism or in being restored?

Another Sermon by Edward O. Bragwell, Sr