



***LOOKING TO 2019!***

**Titus 2:11-15**

**Woodland Park Church of Christ  
30 December 2018**

***NEW YEAR IN SIGHT . . .  
REFLECTION & FOCUS TIME***

Traveling alone over last two days, I've had an opportunity to reflect on 2018 and give thought to how I can improve in 2019.

Many have considered or pondered changes they need to or should make in order to live better or more wholesomely.

**RESOLUTIONS**



**In his relatively brief letter to Titus, the Apostle Paul provides a few thoughts when it comes to effective resolutions.**

# 1. SELF-DENIAL IS A MUST

- ***Denying*** ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in the present age . . . v. 12
  - Amplified Bible: *we should live "sensible, upright and godly lives . . ."*
- Essence of any resolution is self-denial and self-control.
- It can be challenging, but self (or desires that conflict with what we are trying to achieve) must be crucified and be rendered less important.

## Other considerations carry greater weight & have more significance

- My family (wife & children)
- The Lord (Church)
- Worthy missions and purposes

***It's not about me!***

**Show me a person with an inability to deny his urges  
or control himself, I will see one who will  
disappoint and never reach their full potential!**

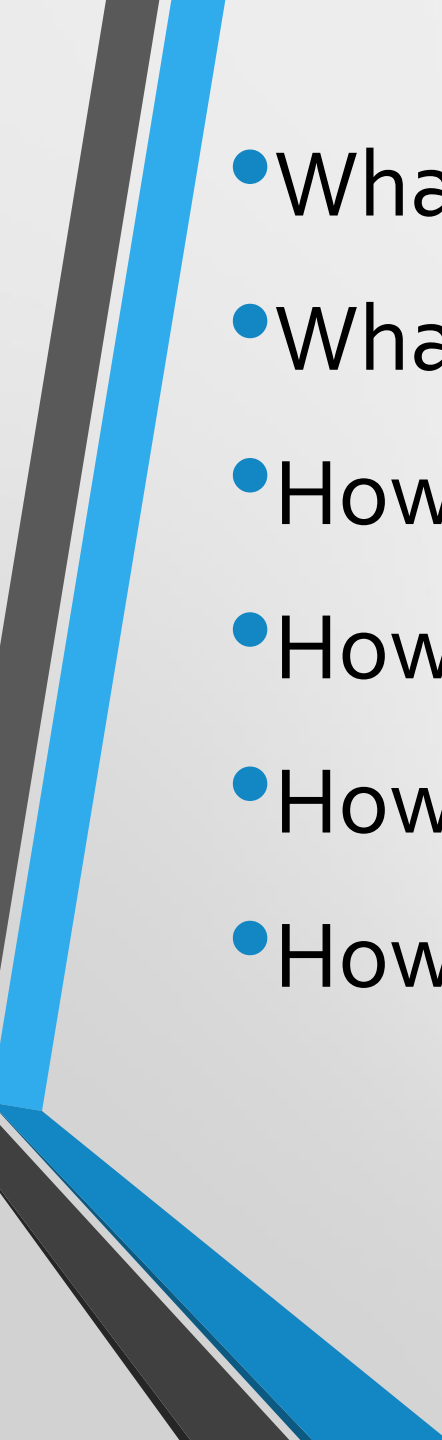
# Bedrock of the Christian Lifestyle

*Then Jesus said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow Me."* **Luke 9:23**

## 2. FOCUS ON THE OUTCOME

*looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, v. 13*

- Amplified Bible: *awaiting and confidently expecting the [fulfillment of our] blessed hope . . .*

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- What is to be gained?
  - What are the benefits?
  - How does this make me better?
  - How is my family fortified?
  - How is God glorified?
  - How is the Lord magnified?



### 3. THE RESULTS MAKE IT ALL WORTHWHILE

*[W]ho gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and **purify for Himself His own special people** . . . v. 14*

- To be among the Lord's redeemed is special and transcends anything to be gained in this life!
- Victory and success (the prize(s)) render the pain and suffering of null effect.

- “Toils of the road will then seem as nothing, [a]s we sweep through the beautiful gates.” *Farther Along* (3<sup>rd</sup> verse)
- The mountains you climb to succeed will seem as speed bumps in your rear view mirror.
- ***So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.***  
**Genesis 29:20**

## As we look to 2019, I pray . . .

- God blesses us all to see the New Year!
- We will strive to be the absolute best we can be in God's service and at whatever "our hands find to do."
- We all achieve our greatest level(s) of spiritual maturity, being anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication making our requests known to God. **See Ephesians 4:6**

It will be well with us!

# Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- **Be added to the Lord's body --**

**Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7, Romans 10:17)**

**Believe (Hebrews 11:6, Acts 15:7)**

**Repent of sins (Acts 2:38)**

**Confess Christ (Acts 8:36, Romans 10:10)**

**Be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38) or**

## Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- Be reconciled unto the Lord (**1 John 1:8-9**);  
or
- Desire prayer. (**James 5:16**).



***May GOD richly bless you!***