

I have never been one for New Year's resolutions. I am not even particularly convinced that January 1st ought to be so highly celebrated any way. After all, historically, there have been other dates established as the first day of the new year. Some conventions began the year in the spring or fall. January 1st arguably has certain practical advantages as a choice. It falls near the time of the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere (which is also the same date as the summer solstice for those in the southern hemisphere). This is the date that the sun's angular progression southward ends and subsequently, its northern progression begins. This solstice falls on Gregorian December 21/22, anciently in Rome on December 19, 17 and 25 (per calendar changes) – tidbits of history.

So with being a humbug regarding New Year's, and finding little reason for celebrative debauchery, – how un-American can one get – I still have something positive and special to say about New Year's Day. For upon it, as upon every other day of our lives, is the newest day thus far for rededicating our lives to become more Christ-like. This is a *never-ending* quest, for we all have much more to do before we can claim “mission accomplished” or “resolution completed.”

Yet for Christians, this is our New *Day's* resolution, each day of every year. It is also an encouraging one because working towards such a lofty and beautiful goal is rewarding beyond measure and has all of the excitement of an ongoing adventure, making life perpetually fresh. ‘Adventure’ – are you kidding!? – the biggest stakes imaginable, the greatest rewards, beyond measure, and more challenging a goal than ever set by the most Everest-climbing adventurer. We are all on a Sir Edmund Hillary expedition, but in the spiritual realm. We are knighted as royal seed on a quest for the holiness of God.

So on New Year's morning and each morning thereafter, recognize the potential to be reformed into a new person, better equipped to face the challenges we encounter. These *challenges* are typically termed, “trials” or “tribulations”. Face these humbly with dignity and confidence in God's sufficiency to bring us to success. We often term such, “faith”, “endurance”, “patience”... and “courage”. Enjoy the journey... celebrate with sobriety, retaining a hope-filled and serious overview of *why* we were placed on earth... why we are *still* here, what a *glorious future* lays ahead for us, and why we have so much reason to be *encouraged* ... even during challenges.