

THE FOLSOM
VIEW

“...HAVING THE EYES OF YOUR HEART ENLIGHTENED...” EPHESIANS 1:18

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Fight Boredom!

BY STEPHEN ROUSE

Bore (bôr)- To make weary by being dull, repetitive, or tedious.

It's summertime. Some people have jobs. Some people have camp. But, when stuff isn't going on, most people just get *bored*. I have been bored so many times that once, on a whim, I was moved to write a song about it (not sure where it is, though). But I digress. I come here to urge you to consider this:

As Christians, we DO NOT have the right to be bored.

That hurts to think about. But guess what? There's more work here to do than can EVER be done. Consider these areas:

Preaching to the lost

Guys, there are hundreds, if not thousands of people that we come into contact with on a regular basis that NEED, above all else, to hear about what this life is really about. Who have you talked to in the last week about Christ? How many were Christians? How many were of the lost? Preaching the Word is not an option. Challenge yourself.

Studying God's Word

How many hours have you spent staring at a TV/computer screen this summer? How many hours have you spent being enriched by God's Word? And not just because you were at Church services or at camp Bible classes. Because you wanted to. Because "faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ", or because you think: "O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day." Challenge yourself.

Praying to God

And not just at mealtimes or in the morning or when you go to bed. If you had written all the prayers you've said to God this week, how many

pages would it fill? Not that length is everything, but how much are we pouring our heart out to our Creator? And not just asking for help or thanking Him. Those come quite naturally. How about just praising Him for as long as you can without repeating yourself? The psalmist claims: "Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous ordinances." Challenge yourself.

Guys, with SO much to do, whether it's preaching Christ, encouraging one another, praying, studying, praising God, singing, or any number of spiritual activities, we just DON'T have time to be BORED.

It has been said that "an idle (bored) mind is the devil's workshop." If we're filling our lives with spiritual things and dwelling on them, Satan will have much less of a chance to tempt us and bring us down.

So, in conclusion, DON'T BE BORED. If I ever tell you I'm bored, reprimand me, please, because I fall short here. A lot.

Encourage each other. Let's serve the Lord together. Let's go to Heaven together. We don't know how much time we have: live each day like it's your last.

"But encourage one another day after day, so long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end."

Hebrews 3:13-14

VIA AUBURN BEACON

Just Wad it Up and Start Over

BY DEE BOWMAN

[The following was written at the beginning of the year. But the great thing about being a Christian is that we can start over anytime we want. So, how about some “mid-year” resolutions? Why not? DP]

New beginnings are a necessary part of life. I remember doing my math homework and running across a difficult problem. I'd work on it and work on it and finally, in sheer disgust, wad up the paper and throw it in the vicinity of the trash basket. Then I'd get a new page and start all over again.

Traditionally, January first is the time we take to re-examine how things are and make resolutions to make them better-to start over again. It's like a new page, so to speak, one that is uncluttered and where there is room for new purposes and fresh plans. And I suppose all of us like the idea of being able to start over again.

Forgiveness of sins is the best of all possible new beginnings. Can you imagine what life would be like if we have to carry around the baggage of all the mistakes, all the misjudgments, all the immoral things we have done in the past? The sheer weight of the guilt would be imposing, if not impossible to bear. The angelic annunciation stated that “He shall save His people from their sins” (Mt 1:21). That's the best of all new beginnings.

So maybe it would be the best of a new beginning to start with a fervent, personal prayer for forgiveness. That's what I'm going to do. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” we are told (1 Jn 1:9). That's about as good a way to begin the new year as I can think of.

I have put together some other resolutions, fitted for the refrigerator door or the mirror in the bathroom, in the hope that they will help us be better servants of His in the new year.

I am resolved to get closer to God, to make a special effort to read and study His word and put it to work in my life.

I am resolved to put first things first, to put my relationship to God first in my life and then arrange everything else in its proper order.

I am resolved to make plans each morning to do some deed of kindness that day, then to look for an opportunity to make my resolution a reality.

I am resolved to keep my role-whatever it is-in perspective and to perform the obligations it calls for with diligence and concern. I will try and be a better father, mother, son or daughter, brother or sister, employee or employer.

I am resolved to be confident about who I am-a Christian. I will not be ashamed and I will look for opportunities to tell someone about Jesus.

I am resolved to take at least 10 minutes each day and be with God-to dismiss all the cares and problems of my life and be thankful, to ask Him for His help and forgiveness, and praise Him for His blessings.

I am resolved to learn the value of the short prayer, to stop and pray several times a day and thereby let God be a part of all that I do, no matter the size or significance of the project.

I am resolved to look for good things in people, to respect the common folks, to give something to the less fortunate, to notice those who have little or no recognition.

I am resolved to budget my time so that God's cause is part of them. I will not allow anything to crowd out the time I have decided to give.

I am resolved to say “I love you” more and mean it.

I hope these suggestions will be a beginning place for a new beginning for you. I want to do better, don't you?