

Remnant Life Church
Sunday, December 30, 2012

Wise Resolutions Zephaniah 3:12-17

- The Julian Calendar (Julius Caesar in 45 BC)
- In 1582 Pope Gregory XII decreed that the method of tracking the months and dates would be changed to the Gregorian Calendar still used today (This year is minus 13 days by the JC)
- The primary reason for the change was that the length of the year was inaccurate in relation to the tropical year or seasons (specifically the spring equinox) and since the church used those times for the celebration of Easter and other fixed feasts they could not have a calendar that the date continued to move.
- Just prior to the first Julian year in 46 BC it was 445 days long to “make up” days that needed to be present to align with the seasons

Most people engage in 2 activities this time of year – reflection and resolution

- **Caution about spending too much time in reflection**
 - You can do nothing about what was done only so much as to learn from those things, good and bad to either incorporate or remove them
 - Satan wants nothing more than for us to dwell on our past failures or difficulties in order to rob of us of our trust in God
- **Resolutions need to be wise**
 - Do not make them overly aggressive
 - You should never make a resolution to spend an hour a day in prayer or reading the Word unless you already have the habit in your day now – Satan wants to bring discouragement
 - Pray about what God would have you focusing on in the year to come

Zephaniah gives us a wonderful blueprint for resolutions that will purify and posture us to not only give glory to God but receive His blessings

1. Vs. 12 – **Meek and humble** – humility instead of pride

- a. The Bible speaks of humility nearly 90 times but speaks of pride twice as much
- b. **Prov. 18:12** - Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor
2. Vs. 12 – **Trust in the name of the Lord**
 - a. **Prov. 3:5** -Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
 - b. My understanding is the flesh separate of God
3. Vs. 13 – **Speak no lies**
 - a. Truth is not only in what you say but what you think
 - b. **Math. 15:18** - But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart,
4. Vs. 13 – **Know that God will take care of you**
 - a. Eat and lie down
 - b. **Phil. 4:19** - And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
 - c. Satan wants us to doubt – just as he has tried to do since the beginning with Adam and Eve (Gen 3:1)
5. Vs. 13 – **Do not be afraid**
 - a. **Psalm 27:1-3** The LORD is my light and my salvation--whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life--of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

Six fundamental blessing promised to us as a purified remnant:

1. Blessing of **Humility** - the meek and humble
2. Blessing of **Refuge** – trust in the name of the Lord
3. Blessing of **Integrity** – do no wrong, speak no lies; without deceit
4. Blessing of **Provision** – you will eat
5. Blessing of **Peaceful Rest** – and lie down
6. Blessing of **Security** – no one will make you afraid