



# Lighthouse News



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## New Year's Resolutions Worth Trying — by Vic Primeaux

As we kick off the new year of 2010 there will be messages of all types reminding us to start a bunch of resolutions. Some will certainly focus on losing weight, or getting in better shape, or keeping in better touch with family and friends — and the lists go on, and on, and on!

But why not look at this important opportunity through the lens of “God-focused resolutions” and trust that the Lord has a better plan for each one of us!

A strategically important question to ask ourselves at the beginning of this new year might be: “What will I do with my life during 2010 that will have eternal consequences?” If we don’t take some time to chart a course of purpose for the upcoming year, then we might very well arrive at year’s end with little-or-nothing to show for an entire year’s worth of living.

While there are any number of ways to answer this question, I would like to suggest a key portion of Holy Scripture that is a rich storehouse of significant “resolutions” for our lives. These are all taken from the twelfth chapter of the Letter to the Romans, in the NIV translation, and its language is both clear and concise.

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (verse 1)** God’s abundant mercy was demonstrated through the sacrificial atonement of Jesus Christ upon the cross—so we are called to true worship by offering our bodies for God’s holy purposes.

**Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (v. 2)** Don’t let our culture and media squeeze you into its mold; instead demonstrate the victory of God in the battlegrounds of life by saturating your mind and heart in God’s Word.

**For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. (v. 3)** Walking in true humility requires a filling of God’s grace for every person we interact with, no matter their station in life.

**We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. (v. 6)** God has gifted us uniquely to testify of His goodness and transforming power in our lives to challenge the Body of Christ to estab-

Masthead photo of the Commandant of the Coast Guard, **ADM Thad Allen**, along with **CWO-4 Wayne Zuehls** and five aircrew personnel of Air Station Sacramento following the Memorial Service honoring the crew of HC-130H CG-1705 (photo by Vic Primeaux)



**MSST Anchorage’s** change of command late this past summer featured **CDR Troy Vest** departing command after a very busy and fruitful two-year tour in Alaska, and wherever his MSST personnel were required for maritime security. Troy is currently in a year’s special training enroute to his next job as the Military Attache’ to Costa Rica. His wife **Teresa** and children **Tory** and **Teag**, pictured above, are all looking forward to the move to San Jose, Costa Rica, following a recent tour of duty in Lima, Peru, where the four of them thoroughly enjoyed the country and the culture while Troy served as the Maritime and Riverine Interdiction Program Director at the American Embassy in Lima. (photos by Vic Primeaux)

lish itself in Christ’s love and saving grace.

**If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; (v. 7)** To serve others and teach as a godly mentor is a high calling.

**if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (v. 8)** These character traits should become our lifestyle, overflow from our hearts, not to our own credit or profit but for the good of many to the glory of God.

**Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. (v. 9)** Genuine love, tempered with intense dislike and shunning of evil in all forms while embracing tenaciously the good of which God approves, is living in a true, Christ-like way.

**Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (v. 10)** This command to love and honor should always place the welfare of others above ourselves.

**Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. (v. 11)** Our labors in the church, and in the world, must be filled with enthusiasm knowing they are always directed toward God Himself.

**Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. (v. 12)** Our joy-filled hope is in what God is doing, knowing that in this world we will be persecuted, sustained by our prayers that, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done.”

**Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. (v. 13)** Demonstrate compassion in tangible ways.

**Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. (v. 14)** In prayer and in conversation let this be a way of life.

**Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. (v. 15)** Spend quality time sharing in both the joys and the sorrows of people God has placed in your life.

**Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. (v. 16)** A very simple admonition to walk as Jesus walked.

**Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. (v. 17)** Our way of daily living is always on display to the world, and godly righteousness is in such short supply that we must model it.

**If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (v. 18)** Not a call to be a doormat but rather, don’t have a contentious spirit; bring God’s *Shalom* to every relationship and situation.

**Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. (v. 19)** God has the final word in all things and wants no bitterness to take hold in our hearts against anyone.

**On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” (v. 20)** In practical ways we overcome our enemies with meaningful demonstrations of God’s amazing grace and thereby win some into everlasting relationship with our Creator God.

**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (v. 21)** Never, never, never give up the good fight of faith, remembering that we are daily in spiritual warfare—and the victory belongs to Jesus Christ!

Now would be the time to ask Almighty God to fill you with the empowering of the Holy Spirit to walk out these crucial Scriptures from Romans 12 on a daily basis during 2010. These admonitions and encouragements will equip us to “put on Jesus Christ” in our daily lives in very meaningful ways.

Pray the Lord will provide His joy and determination for the journey, so that Jesus Christ will be formed in you (Gal. 4:19) and your light shines brightly to the praise and glory of our Heavenly Father (Matt. 5:16).