

# Sermon Handout

## A Christian Resolution

### Romans 12:1-2

#### I. What is a Resolution?

- a. The determination to do, or not do, something
  - i. The shepherds – Lk 2:15
  - ii. Jesus – Lk 9:51 *cf.* v. 53
  - iii. Instructions to Joshua – Josh 1:7-8
- b. Usage in law expressing legislative will or purpose  
“whereas . . . be it resolved” (The pattern seen in Romans)
- c. In popular usage: “what I hope to accomplish”  
Frequently with little resolve and broken promises.
- d. In our text: exhortation to be resolute

#### II. St. Paul’s Exhortation Rom 12:1-2

- a. “I appeal to you” *cf.* Moffatt; Goodspeed translations  
Lexical: “to implore” also “to summon”
- b. On the basis of God’s mercy (expounded in Rom 1-8; 9-11)  
God’s mercy is our motivation to be consecrated to him.
- c. “Present your **bodies**” *cf.* I Cor 6:20 (We follow Jesus, not Plato)
- d. “A living sacrifice” – **You**, not dead animals
  - i. Holy & acceptable to God (without blemish *cf.* Eph 5:25-27)
  - ii. This is proper worship  
Sunday sets the pattern; it isn’t a substitute
- e. Contrasted to “this world” – the customs of this world v. 2
  - i. Christians are called to a distinctive life “bought with a price”
  - ii. Change begins in our minds v. 2b
  - iii. **One will of God** – “good, pleasing and complete”

#### III. Important Supporting Passages Gal 6:12-16; Eph 4:1ff

- a. Do not be led astray by obsolete distinctions Gal 6:12-13
- b. Coming to the cross sanctifies us to Jesus the Lord Gal 6:14
- c. The partition between Jew & Gentile is abolished in Jesus  
*cf.* Eph 2:13-22
- d. Therefore, live in a way that is worthy of Jesus Eph 4:1; 5:25, 22

**All this we should be resolved anew to do in the Year of our Lord 2021.**