

# The Christian Training Center Crusader

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## New Year's Wishes

What shall I wish thee? What can be found?

Bringing the sunshine all the year round?  
Where is the treasure, lasting and dear,  
That shall insure thee a happy new year?

What shall I wish thee! Treasures of earth?

Songs in the springtime, pleasures and mirth?

Flowers in thy pathway, skies ever clear?  
Would this insure thee a happy new year?

Faith that increaseth, walking in light;  
Hope that aboundeth, happy and bright;  
Love that is perfect, casting out fear —  
Those shall insure thee a happy new year.

Peace in the Savior, rest at His feet,  
Smile in His countenance, radiant and sweet;

Joy in His presence, Christ ever near —  
This will insure thee a happy new year.



Philip ran thither to him. Acts 8:30

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH  
By R. (Red) P. Schoen

Wherever we find the root of bitterness we know that there is rebellion at work in some form. Hebrews 12:15, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled". I Sam. 15:23a, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry..."

This can cause us to be set aside as unprofitable to the Lord - just like Saul was set aside from being king. Witchcraft is a work of Satan.

As we yield to rebellion and bitterness, it is fed and developed by Satan and his hordes. Then the old nature with all its capabilities comes into action - with all its evil deeds - and this is in direct rebellion against God and all that is of God. Gal. 5:17, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would". Carnality has a lot to do with our spiritual condition and attitude.

Galatians 5:19-21, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest which are these:

Adultery - Unfaithfulness to our God ordained relationship - the giving of ones self to another - sinning against the very person they have been espoused to - Jesus Christ.

Fornication

Uncleanness - This goes along with adultery. Uncleanness shows up outwardly many times as super-clean, super-spiritual, super-righteous, super-right. This is self - this is not of God. God recorded His estimation of this in Isaiah 64:6a, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags".

Lasciviousness - This works in the mind of the carnal believer, and he begins to speak these things out to incite others to think as he does.. thus producing a self-righteousness, self-indignation, self-pity, self-justification, and exalting self-will to do as he desires, and he enters into a wrong relationship. God will not bless such unfaithfulness, such rebellion, such lustful desires for power, and position, and authority, and recognition. The carnal mind is enmity against God and is not in subjection. God has raised up whom He pleases when He pleases and where He pleases, and how He pleases. The carnal man raises himself up - because it pleases him (the carnal man) to do so - it is not because it

pleases Christ. It is the fruit of the carnal mind which is at enmity with the Holy Spirit - NOT TO BE SUBJECT TO GOD - and it produces disobedience.

Idolatry - is the worship of someone or something other than God. It is idolatry to exalt others before God, and it is idolatry and blasphemy when we take authority - authority not given to us by God - to set ourselves up as though we were something - as though we were a spiritual leader above God. If we place ourselves in a position for which we have not yet been qualified by God, then we are usurping authority which God has given to His ordained and His approved ministries. If this is true, then God's sovereignty is not acknowledged - regardless of what is said. In other words - actions speak louder than words. Matt. 7:20, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them". If this is the situation, then we are exalting our mind, our will and our desires above those of God. And we are deceived into believing that we are subject to God - so we set about to bring everything into line with the way we think it ought to be and we do God's work for Him. Rather, we are to be obedient and submissive - we are to be a submissive vessel allowing God to work as He will. Colossians 3:5, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry". Col. 3:3, "For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God". I Cor. 10:14, "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry".

Witchcraft - as rebellion - proud, arrogant, self-willed, self-exalting - and this is stirred by the Devil. The ones ruled by witchcraft or yielded to it begin to act like the devil - very sanctimonious, as though they had a perfect right to do what they are doing. Listen to the language - language that comes forth either in words or deeds. Isaiah 14:13,14, "I will ascend, I will exalt my throne, I will sit upon the mount, I will ascend above, I will be like the most High". God answers: Is. 14:15, "Yet thou shalt be brought down..." If we lift ourselves up - God will bring us down in shame.

Hatred - ill will - will rise up against the one or ones they suppose hinder their rise to a position as apostle, prophet, or teacher - whatever their aspiration is. Even if they are genuinely called of God as an apostle, prophet, or teacher - it will be brought about by the Spirit of God and not by fleshly aspiration. They begin to think in terms of dictating what they want to those leaders appointed by God (witchcraft) or getting them out of the way (usurping their authority) so they can take over (insurrection). Scripture speaks about appointing elders in: I Tim. 3:6, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil". They could have been Christians for many years, but they are still carnal, walking after the

flesh, and they are novices in this walk in the Spirit. They need to learn submission before they can rule. Heb. 13:7,17, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you". It is a serious thing to work against the vessels that God has appointed. When they begin to talk out their ill will, they spread their feelings of discontent to others who are inclined this way - proving their immaturity also. And so where there has been peace, unity and love, under a God approved ministry - they plant doubts, disunity and hatred.

Variance - They bring in strife and contention. Proverbs 10:12a, "Hatred stirreth up strifes..."

Emulations - (striving to be equal or better) So there is the ambition to surpass - to be important. Scripture says: James 4:6,10, "...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up". I Peter 5:5,6, "Likewise, ye younger (in the things of the Lord) submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time".

Wrath - Indignation builds in the hearts of the proud, bringing them to open action against God and His approved servants, and His order. James 1:20, "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God".

Strife - produces conflict and competition. Those who are of like mind in resisting God - pit themselves together against God's will and they do not believe this, because, as a result of walking after the flesh, they are blinded by the flesh, and so they call it 'following after God'. God, however, doesn't work that way.

Seditions - the stirring up of discontent with, and, rebellion against God's government and God's ordained order of government.

(To be continued)



#### Golden Nugget

The only effective way of keeping a plot of ground from being overgrown by weeds is to sow good seed therein: "Overcome evil with good" Rom.12:21. So the more Christ's Word dwells in us "richly" Col. 3:16, the less room will there be for the exercise of sin in our hearts and lives.



A.W.Pink

WHERE DID NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS COME FROM?

By Dr. Edith R. Grimes

In China a man is directed to keep a debtor and creditor account with himself of the acts of each day, and at the end of the year to wind it up. If the balance is in his favour, it serves as the foundation of a stock of merits for the ensuing year; and if against him, it must be liquidated by future good deeds.


To cause another's death is reckoned at one hundred on the side of demerit; while a single act of charitable relief counts as one on the other side. To save a person's life ranks in the above work as an exact set-off to the opposite act of taking it away; it is said that this deed of merit will prolong a person's life 12 years.

Never could there be a solid feeling of comfort or assurance in a man's heart, whose conscience is continually condemning him, of his prospects for eternity.


Who could ever tell, however good he might suppose himself to be, whether the "sum of his good actions" would or would not counterbalance the amount of sins and transgressions that his conscience might charge against him. No amount of resolution can improve a man. Such assurance and comfort for eternity can only come by a simple believing on the free unmerited grace of God, given in and along with Christ. The unspeakable gift of the Father's love.

Let us accept the challenge of a new year not with a long list of new resolutions and good intentions but with a deeper dedication and consecration to the direct and perfect will of God for our lives.

May we not only produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives but also fruit of our ministry unto eternal life.



FAITH THAT IS NOT EXERCISED IS A FAITH WHICH WILL NOT  
GROW; A FAITH WHICH IS NOT TRIED NEVER WILL BE STRONG.  
FAITH IS BELIEVING WHAT WE CANNOT SEE AND UNDERSTAND.



# "Crusader"

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