

“COMMIT YOUR WORKS TO JEHOVAH”

INTRODUCTION

A. Proverbs 16:3

Resolutions don't have to wait until a New Year, but if turning a page on the calendar reminds you about self-improvement, then make good on that reminder.

B. Psalm 37:5

What commitments do we need to make to the Lord?

I. COMMIT TO STUDY

A. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

God's people must surround themselves with His words.

B. 1st Timothy 4:13

Attention must be devoted to reading. Be so constant in this task, that it does not give you pause to look up even the most obscure books of the Bible.

C. Romans 10:17

It is a blessing to hear the word of God spoken. Pay attention to the preaching in church. If it helps you, listen to my daily livestreams. You could also get an audio Bible.

D. Deuteronomy 17:18

There is a benefit to exercising the tactile sense when committing something to memory. The very act of writing it down diminishes the likelihood of forgetting.

E. 2nd Timothy 2:15

Study! Be diligent to understand it correctly and apply it as God intended.

II. COMMIT TO ATTENDANCE

A. Hebrews 10:23-25

Despite the very plain meaning of this text, many Christians still need reminding how important it is to gather with the church. To forsake is to waver, rather than to hold fast the confession. To forsake is to not be considerate of one another. To forsake is to not stir up love. To forsake is to not stir up good works. To forsake is to not exhort one another.

B. John 20:24-25

The gathering of the apostles which Thomas was absent from may not have been a commanded one and he may have thought he wasn't missing anything important by not being there, but he has forever been branded as doubting Thomas because of what he missed that one time.

III. COMMIT TO PRAYERFULNESS

A. 1st Thessalonians 5:17; Psalm 55:17

Prayer must be a constant in the life of God's child.

B. Colossians 4:2; James 5:16

Prayer ought to be engaged in with earnestness, vigilance, and fervency.

IV. COMMIT TO FAMILY

A. Ephesians 5:25-29

Men, love your wives with the sacrificial love Jesus showed the church when He went to the cross. Put her needs above your own and your own will be satisfied!

B. 1st Peter 3:7

Men and women are very different creatures and understanding is not always natural and automatic, so it is commanded; it takes work! Men, strive to understand your women. In the process, honor her the way a rare and breakable object is treated because she **is** rare and she **is** breakable.

C. Ephesians 5:33

Ladies, it is important to love your husbands (Titus 2:4), but more than love, men need respect. It is obedience and submission which Scripture emphasizes most (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5; 1st Peter 3:1).

D. Proverbs 25:24; 31:10-11, 28

Ladies, do not be the type of women your husbands need to get away from. Instead, be the kind of ladies they can brag about in public.

E. 1st Corinthians 7:2-5

Keep the flames of romance kindled. Husbands, try not to let work keep you too busy. Wives, don't let the children wear you out too much. Save some energy for each other.

F. Colossians 3:20

Children, until you are married, you are subject to your parents. Behave accordingly.

G. Hebrews 12:9-11

Parents must discipline children. It is the nature of discipline for this to be unpleasant, even painful, but it is intended for long-term blessing.

V. COMMIT TO HEALTH

A. 1st Corinthians 6:19-20

This text is about abstaining from sexual sin and that must be understood foremost. The reason fornication is so very wrong is that it uses what is intended as God's own temple to honor the devil. Knowing the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, we ought to have some concern for bodily well-being. This body must be available to carry out the good works God calls us to do. Deliberately poisoning ourselves with tobacco, alcohol, or an excess of junk food is certainly contrary to this principle.

B. 1st Timothy 4:8

Bodily exercise can be dangerously exaggerated to the neglect of godliness, but that does not change the fact it is a little bit profitable. Provided we keep

physical conditioning behind spiritual improvement among our priorities, it has its benefit and Scripture acknowledges this.

C. James 2:8

One might think it is nobody's business but one's own whether to be healthy or otherwise. Yet, when a body succumbs to preventable illness, whose burden is it to care for the sick person? The spouse? The children? A fellow Christian? Do we love them enough to spare them that trouble?

VI. COMMIT TO REPENT

A. 1st John 1:5-10

Lay no claim to the fellowship of the Lord while you persist in sin.

B. Ephesians 5:1-16

There is behavior which is "*fitting for saints.*" Conduct yourself righteously.

C. 1st Corinthians 10:13

Your sin can be overcome. Quit making excuses.