

## **Daniel's Resolution (Daniel 1:3-8)**

### **Introduction**

The change of year, teaches us to pray with Moses in our Psalm of the week, "O teach thou us to count our days, and set our hearts on wisdom's ways." And more than that, it provides for us a sense of new beginning, a fresh opportunity.

We must learn to live with the conviction of a M'Cheyne, "He had his task completed when most of us are dreaming of commencing ours" (Smellie, p. 162). And many of his letters were headed with his own sketch of the setting sun above the words, 'The night cometh, when no man can work' (John 9:4).

### **1. Daniel's Resolution**

Daniel asked the question, "What am I going to do when this situation comes up? What does God want me to do?" And he came to decision ahead of time, he resolved, or he *purposed in his heart* that he would be faithful.

### **2. Our Need For Resolution—before God!**

Although a simple *resolution* may suffice for some things, clearly in matters of strong temptation resolutions are insufficient. Consider the Biblical method of making resolutions: a vow to God, an oath in which you promise to perform this or that, and also possibly including what you'll do if you fail, or what you'll return to the Lord if he helps you (cf. Judg 11:30-39, Eccl 5:4-5, 7).

See *Confession of Faith*, chapter 22. "in matters of weight and moment, an oath is warranted by the Word of God, under the New Testament as well as under the Old; so a lawful oath, being imposed by lawful authority, in such matters, ought to be taken" (22.2).

### **Conclusion: *The Need for Change***

"Make every effort to add to your faith goodness..." (2 Pet 1:5-8, NIV).

"So then, dear friends ... make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with [the Lord]" (3:14, NIV).

"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another" (Rom 14:19, see Phil 3:12-14).

"Tomorrow is the Devil's day, but today is God's. Satan cares not how spiritual your intentions may be, and how holy your resolutions, if only they are fixed for to-morrow. ...give not place to the Devil in this matter! Answer him, 'No: Satan! It shall be today: today'" (R. A. Torrey).