



The PEP Talk

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
PASADENA EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 1, 2012

Volume 5 , Number 1

*Therefore, since we
have been justified
through faith, we
have peace with God
through our Lord
Jesus Christ...*

Events

**Saturday, 1/7
7:30 AM @ Church
Men's Prayer**

**Saturday 1/7
Skating 4:30 PM**

**Next meal Sunday
1/15**

Prayer Meetings

**Next Men's Prayer
Saturday 1/7/12
7:30AM**

God is calling men to step up to the plate and do their part in prayer. The Lord today is calling ALL of the Church to prayer....both men and women, young and old. Look just at the spiritual warfare aspect of prayer. John Piper writes, "Until we know that life is war, we won't know what prayer is for." Prayer involves battle against spiritual forces in the heavenlies. Men —how do you feel about sending your mother or wife out to do battle while you sit at home? Isn't that what we've been doing when we have looked at prayer as women's work? It's time to take the place of the warrior, alongside the women, as we do battle together in the Lord's strength and victory as a people of prayer.

--Dave Butts

Sunday School Class ---

Answering questions about church...

**Topic for 1/8
Continuing with the LORD'S SUPPER**

Church Contact Information

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Presbyterian Church
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Web:
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Current Elders and Deacons

Session:

Duane Dwyer, RE
Matt Eastman, RE Neil Vanik
Neil Vanik, RE
Tom Wenger, TE

Deaconate:

Jim Broomfield
Dave Farris
Bob Schingeck

*For contact info for session or
deaconate members, see the
church directory or contact the
church office*

SKATING PARTIES

First Saturday of the Month **Next Party January 7th**



Good time of fun, exercise and fellowship
Join us from **4:30 to 6:30 PM**

Pasadena Roller Skating Center on Mountain Road

These skating sessions are closed to the general public and only play family friendly music.

Where: Pasadena Roller Rink on Mountain Road

When: The first Saturday of January, February and March (1/7, 2/4, 3/3)

Mark your calendars

Cost: \$5 a person, plus \$3 skate rental - There is no admission charge if you are just coming to watch or talk or read, etc.

We hope to see you there!

A Final Thought

In the January 2009 edition of *Tabletalk* Burk Parson's wrote a very helpful article titled, *Resolved by the Grace of God*. In that article he reflects on some words from the great theologian, Jonathan Edwards—suggesting four Christian principles for making resolutions.

Please prayerfully consider these before you make any New Year's resolutions.

“Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat him by his grace to enable me to keep these resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to his will, for Christ's sake.” — Jonathan Edwards

1. Resolve Sensibly

Our resolutions must be in accord with the Word of God.

“Being sensible,” Edwards begins his preface — we must be sensible, reasonable, in making resolutions. If we set ourselves about the business of hastily making resolutions as the result of our grand illusions of sinless perfection, it is likely that we will not merely fail in our attempt to keep such resolutions, we will likely be less inclined to make any further resolutions for similar desired ends. We must go about making resolutions with genuine prayer and thorough study of God's Word. Our resolutions must be in accord with the Word of God; therefore, any resolution we make must necessarily allow us to fulfill all our particular callings in life. We must consider all the implications of our resolutions and be careful to make resolutions with others in mind, even if it means implementing new resolutions incrementally over time.

2. Resolve Dependently

Every resolution must be made in dependence on God.

“I am unable to do anything without God’s help,” Edwards admits. We must be sensible in grasping the simple truth that every resolution must be made in dependence on God. And while every Christian would respond by saying, “Well, of course we must depend on God for all things,” most Christians have been sold the world’s bill of goods. They think that once they become dependent on God, then they will have immediate strength. They mimic the world’s mantra: “Whatever doesn’t kill me will make me stronger.” While the principle is generally true, such thinking can foster an attitude of proud independence. We must understand that in being able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us means that we must depend on His strength continuously in order to do all things and to keep all our resolutions (Eph. 3:16; Col. 1:11). In truth, whatever doesn’t kill us, by God’s conforming grace, makes us weak so that in our weakness we will rely continuously on the strength of our Lord (2 Cor. 12:7-10).

3. Resolve Humbly

We should approach God in humble reliance, seeking not merely the blessings but the one who blesses.

“I do humbly entreat him by his grace to enable me to keep these resolutions.” In making resolutions for the glory of God and before the face of God, we must not come into His presence pounding our chests in triumphal arrogance as if God must now love and bless us more because we have made certain resolutions to follow Him more. In reality, the Lord in His providence may choose to allow even more trials to enter our lives; in His unchanging fatherly love for us, He may decide to discipline us even more in order that we might more so detest our sin and delight in Him. We should approach Him in humble reliance on His grace as we seek not merely the blessings but the one who blesses.

4. Resolve For Christ’s Sake

We cannot resolve to do anything with a presumptuous attitude before God.

“So far as they are agreeable to his will for Christ’s sake.” We cannot resolve to do anything with a presumptuous attitude before God. The whole matter of making resolutions is not just goal setting so that we might have happier lives. We are called by God to live according to His will, not our own — for Christ’s sake, not our own — for it is not unto us but unto Him that all glory belongs (Ps. 115:1).

Adapted from Burk Parson’s contribution to the January 2009 issue of *Tabletalk*, “Resolved by the Grace of God.”

<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/4-christian-principles-making-new-years-resolutions/>