

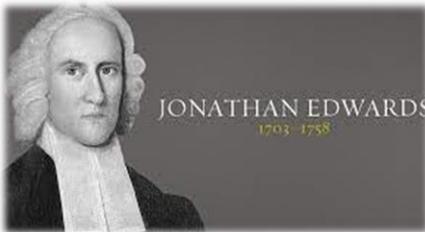
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Navigating the Chinese New Year with Right Directions



What have you achieved in this first month of this year besides your normal routine of work or studies? It is a needful to be clear where we are heading and to set goals and work toward them. **We ought to be purposive and committed in the way we live. We should redeem the time and not waste our limited time on earth that God grants to us.** The apostle Paul shared his burden and life's goal in Phil 3:12-14, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Godly Goals Setting



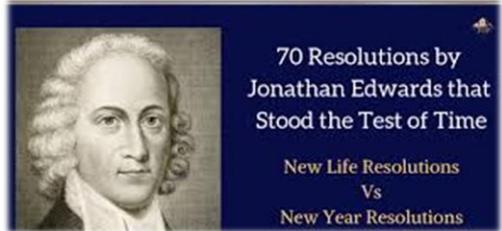
Jonathan Edwards, the renowned 18th-century New England Puritan preacher and Reformed theologian, is well known for the *First Great Awakening* in his church and for his famous sermon "*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.*" **He wrote a list**

of 70 life resolutions in 1723. These resolutions cover broad areas of life from personal living to time management to relationships; from spiritual growth to eating; from how he faced suffering to his devotional habits. We can all learn from him especially as we look to the Chinese New Year season in 2 days' time and consider making our own short-term or long-term aims and goals for the glory of God.

Some of his resolutions, for example are given below for our contemplation. (See also the Works of Jonathan Edwards Vol 1, Banner of Truth Trust, 1987 for other writings.)

#7. **Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life.**

#9. Resolved, to think much on all occasions of my own dying, and of the common circumstances which attend death.



#32. Resolved, to be strictly and firmly faithful to my trust, that that in [Prov. 20:6](#), "A faithful man who can find?" may not be partly fulfilled in me.

#30. **Resolved, to strive to my utmost every week to be brought higher in religion, and to a higher exercise of grace, than I was the week before.**

#38. Resolved, never to speak anything that is ridiculous, sportive, or matter of laughter on the Lord's day. *Sabbath evening, Dec. 23, 1722.*

#53. Resolved, to improve every opportunity, when I am in the best and happiest frame of mind, to cast and venture my soul on the Lord Jesus Christ, to trust and confide in him, and consecrate myself wholly to him; that from this I may have assurance of my safety, knowing that I confide in my Redeemer. *July 8, 1723.*

#52. I frequently hear persons in old age say how they would live, if they were to live their lives over again: Resolved, that I will live just so as I can think I shall wish I had done, supposing I live to old age. *July 8, 1723.*

#65. Resolved, very much to exercise myself in this all my life long, viz. with the greatest openness I am capable of, to declare my ways to God, and lay open my soul to him: all my sins, temptations, difficulties, sorrows, fears, hopes, desires, and every thing, and every circumstance; according to Dr. Manton's 27th Sermon on Psalm 119. *July 26 and Aug. 10, 1723.*

Edwards was conscious of the brevity of life even as a young person; he was mindful of keeping the Lord's day holy and did not miss corporate worship in the church. **He fought against temptations in the pursuit of holiness and truth and was a very diligent student and teacher of the Word. Goals should be measurable and achievable and we should evaluate them throughout the year if we had made them.**

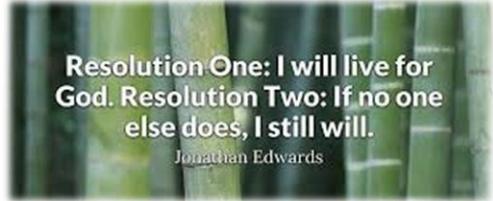
Notable Practical Pointers

Consider some elements of Jonathan Edwards's resolutions we can use in developing our own.

1. Seek God's Glory Daily.

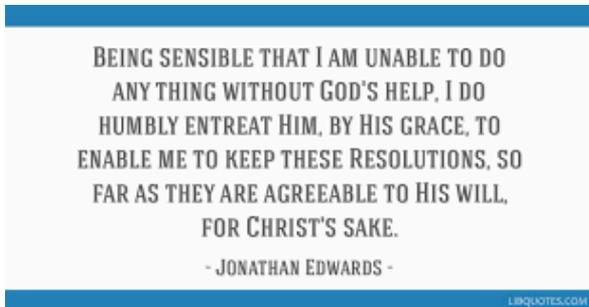
The Westminster Shorter Catechism Q1 tells us that our chief end of life is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. Edwards's life resolutions

reflected this purpose. He put it as: "*Resolved, never to do any manner of thing, whether in soul or body, less or more, but what tends to the glory of God; nor be, nor suffer it, if I can avoid it.*" May all our resolutions begin with and be founded on this important goal of life for 2022.



2. Take God and Our Calling Seriously.

The resolutions Edwards made were not like the kind some would make on 1 Jan and give up on them by Feb 1. Rather, his resolutions were serious lifetime goals that are serious and attainable. These were resolutions that he shaped his life around and by which he measured himself. He kept regular track of his progress, journaling about his struggles and progress along the way. **He reviewed his progress on a regular basis, weekly, monthly, and yearly and takes steps to improve himself along the way. We can learn from him in this regard and be faithful in the whole year in our walk of faith, work, family and ministry.**



3. Rely on God's Strength through His Word and Prayer.

These words precede his list of 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 recognised that he depended upon God's grace for all things,

including his growth in holiness. **No amount of resolve and no matter how good our intentions, we cannot**

do anything apart from the sovereign grace of God at work in us. Whatever our goals and resolutions, we must humbly surrender them to Christ and consciously rely on His grace in 2022 by much fervent prayer "for without him, I can do nothing." (Jn 15:1-6)



RESOLVED, TO STUDY THE SCRIPTURES SO STEADILY, CONSTANTLY AND FREQUENTLY, AS THAT I MAY FIND, AND PLAINLY PERCEIVE MYSELF TO GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SAME.

Jonathan Edwards
RESOLUTION #28

Conclusion

Although Jonathan Edwards had a challenging time in his later years in pastoring a church and was unjustly voted out by a majority, God had sovereignly ordained it with a higher purpose for him. God used him mightily for His own glory in reaching out in missions to the Mohicans and the building up of the College of New Jersey which later became the world-renowned Princeton Seminary. He was also committed in the Reformed preaching of the pure gospel and sound doctrine to the saving and equipping of souls. **His resolutions and faithful stewardship are a sterling example for us to emulate and learn for our personal walk of faith for 2022, even almost 300 years later.**

Jack Sin

(Works consulted include Iain Murray, A New Biography of Jonathan Edwards, Banner of Truth Trust, 1992, <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/new-years-resolutions-and-jonathan-edwards> and [The Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards by Stephen Nichols \(ligonier.org\)](#) and Edwards Hickman, Works of Jonathan Edwards, Banner of Truth Trust, 1987)



JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF

Praise

FEBRUARY

06

10am

4th Anniversary

The Vigilant Growing
Church in End Times

Rev Philip Heng

Please register with Dn Yue Kay at 97450311
by 31 Jan 2022.

SOVEREIGNHOPE
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***“We thank God for His timely provision of ten rice bags we bought today with the love gift from SHBPC and also cooking oil, beans, toothpaste and soap....God bless!”
From Eld Habakkuk,
Gilead Balm Home, Yangon***



Pray for John Caleb who was leading a Bible Study with the migrant workers and gave them the Tamil Gideon New Testament.

Do join a Sunday school class after the worship service.



***Reaching out to our church visitor
Dr Nellie.***

CHRIST CENTRED

PRINCIPLES FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR JANUARY - MARCH 2022

JANUARY

COLOSSIANS

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 2 | APOSTOLIC CONCERNS FOR THE CHURCH | 1:1-8 |
| 9 | THE FERVENT INTERCESSION FOR THE SAINTS | 1:9-18 |
| 16 | THE CROSSWORK OF CHRIST | 1:19-27 |
| 23 | THE EQUIPPING TOWARDS MATURITY IN CHRIST | 1:28-29 |
| 30 | THE FOUNDATION OF OUR PRE-EMINENT CHRIST | 2:1-13 |

FEBRUARY

COLOSSIANS

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 6 | 4TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
THE VIGILANT GROWING CHURCH IN END TIMES | 2 PETER
3:9-14 |
| 13 | THE PERILS THE CHURCH FACES TODAY | 2:16-23 |
| 20 | HEAVENLY PRECEPTS FOR DAILY LIVING | 3:1-11 |
| 27 | CHRISTIAN VIRTUES TO PUT ON | 3:12-17 |

MARCH

COLOSSIANS

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 6 | BIBLICAL RULES FOR DOMESTIC LIFE | 3:18-25 |
| 13 | SOUND PRINCIPLES FOR SECULAR LIFE | 4:1-6 |
| 20 | BEING A FAITHFUL CO-LABOURER IN THE MINISTRY | 4:7-18 |
| 27 | GOSPEL SUNDAY
PROBING HEAVEN AND HELL | REVELATION
20:1-15 |

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Memory Verse

Col 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks today on “***The Foundation of our Pre-Eminent Christ (Col 2:1-13)***”, the quarterly theme of “Christ-Centred Principles for the Local Church”, a study on the Epistle to the Colossians.
1. **Next Sunday is our 4th Anniversary Thanksgiving Worship Service.** Rev Philip Heng will preach on “***The Vigilant Growing Church in End Times (2 Peter 3:9-14)***”. Do come and rejoice with us! Register your attendance with Dn Yue Kay by 31 Jan (Hp: +65 97450311).
2. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - Understanding Biblical Eschatology & related Topics – Joseph
 - Studies in Numbers – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Burmese Bible Class - James
3. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
4. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
5. In accordance with the Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS) that is effective from 1Feb, our Sunday worship services are for vaccinated worshippers. The measures do not apply to religious classes ie. Sun School and Bible Study classes and hence all are welcome to attend.
6. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 4 Mar 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
7. Those who wish to bring a new friend to the worship service, kindly inform the safety officer Dn Yue Kay or Pastor at least a day in advance.
8. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
9. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
