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"Christ caring for People
through People"

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Micah 6 (The Message)

How can I stand up before God and show proper respect to the high God? Should I bring an armload of offerings topped off with yearling calves? Would God be impressed with thousands of rams, with buckets and barrels of olive oil? Would he be moved if I sacrificed my firstborn child, my precious baby, to cancel my sin? But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbour, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously - take God seriously.

Psalms 15 (The Message) A David Psalm

God, who gets invited to dinner at your place? How do we get on your guest list? "Walk straight, act right, tell the truth. "Don't hurt your friend, don't blame your neighbour; despise the despicable. "Keep your word even when it costs you, make an honest living, and never take a bribe. "You'll never get blacklisted if you live like this."

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (The Message)

The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hell bent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out. It's written, I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head, I'll expose so-called experts as crackpots. Everything that we have - right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start - comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God. Not only that - count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens - give a cheer, even! And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Now that the season for New Year's Resolutions is past, and most of them have either been broken or forgotten we have in these three passages some real good advice from God that would make the best resolutions possible. Our resolutions fail just because they are ours and we are imperfect. As Micah declares, "don't take yourself too seriously - take God seriously."

Imagine what this world would be like if everyone was fair and just to their neighbour, compassionate and loyal in love; if everyone learned to walk straight, act right, and tell the truth; if we all focussed on right thinking and right living, with a clean slate and a fresh start from God through Jesus. WOW! That would truly be miraculous and would be a wonderful new world!

This is worthy of more than a New Year's Resolution. This is worthy of a whole new beginning - a whole new life. And it can start today - with you, with me. Age is not a factor, nor is gender, nor is any other situation, condition or excuse. You and I can make a difference - let's get started.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin