

When I was a boy it was very customary to make resolutions on New Year's Day. At least three or four times I resolved on New Year's Day to keep up a diary all through the year. Each time I kept it up very faithfully for 5 or 6 days and they forgot all about it until the next January 1st.

It is not a bad idea to keep a diary, but I am rather skeptical about the value of a New Year's resolution. I believe I have a verse in the Scripture that is more appropriate for New Year's. It is 2 Cor. 13:5 - "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith."

This is an excellent thing to do at the beginning of the year. Examine one's self whether he is in the faith.

I fear there are a great many who assume that because they believe certain doctrines they therefore belong to Christ. Many who have gone along in certain attitudes which they inherited from their fathers but have never personally taken -- established a relation with the Lord. There are many who have sincerely served Him for a time, but whose faith has grown cold. To all of us it is an excellent thing at the beginning of the year to apply this command - "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith."

One thing that I think should be noted is that in this connection the word faith does not refer to orthodox belief. It is important that our ideas of Scriptural truth be correct. It is important that we see the distinction between what God has clearly taught and what would undermine the truths of God's Word. True belief ~~is~~ is correct. But there is only one thing that is worse than dead orthodoxy and that of course is living heterodoxy. Orthodoxy of belief will ~~not~~ save no one. Orthodoxy of belief important as it is will not in itself make a man's service to the Lord be gold, silver, and precious stones rather than mere wood, hay, or stubble. Orthodoxy of belief is fine, vital, but it is not what this verse is talking about. "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith". It is not simply whether you have faith but whether you have the faith that is important. Faith is a very common thing in life. In fact, faith of one sort or another is extremely common. Even