

Resolved for 2010

January 3, 2010

I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delights. Things that are higher, things that are nobler, these have allured my sight. I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free, Jesus, greatest, highest, I will come to Thee. Such as the words of the hymn "I Am Resolved." We do indeed linger and waste much of our lifetime under the beckoning charms of the delights of this world.

Listening to the endless Christmas music on the radio and TV, it struck me anew that God placed His Son with a very poor family, weak and powerless in terms of economic influence; even while there were rich righteous families like those of Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea who no doubt enjoyed the lawful delights of this world. Jesus was born in an era of apostasy and decline when His people were harshly ruled by Roman pagans already on the verge of crushing them, destroying Jerusalem and selling them by the millions into world-wide slavery. What a terrible time to be born! No, what a wonderful time to be born! The glory of God shined even brighter against the backdrop of so much darkness. The power of God triumphed even more impressively over so strong an opposition. Such times are not thought to be suitable for fruitfulness. It is unreasonable to bring children into such a bleak world to endure hardship. It is not a time for saving souls or making disciples of the children. It is a time to dig a hole in the ground and crawl in.

Rather, these are the most fruitful times in history. The kingdom of Christ was established and went forth conquering and subduing hearts all over the world bringing them into subjection to their Creator and bringing them an unspeakable joy never known to them. In these times was born a conviction that tore down racial and cultural barriers, a conviction to live and die for, a conviction for truth and righteousness, and a conviction that cleaned up the family making it suitable for the raising of numerous children. The Gospel began to overcome the pagan world not just because of evangelism, but also because of the fertility of Christians and their large families. Reminds us a little of the Israelites during the slave period in Egypt leading up to their delivery by Moses.

Jesus brought to the world a higher and nobler vision that brought gladness and freedom of the soul. As we linger, fearful over what we might miss if we don't have enough money, fearful if the political climate becomes hostile, remember the poverty of Jesus, and lift up your eyes. tp