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Scriptures and references are supplied to promote discussion

Additional study materials are available (and recommended) in the Character Development Study Book published by the Chicago Bible Students covering 2 Peter 1:5-8 with studies prepared by Bro. Russell.

Questions:

1. What is Temperance? Webster 1829 – Dictionary

1. Moderation; particularly, habitual moderation in regard to the indulgence of the natural appetites and passions; restrained or moderate indulgence; as temperance in eating and drinking; temperance in the indulgence of joy or mirth. Temperance in eating and drinking is opposed to gluttony and drunkenness, and in other indulgences, to excess.

2. Patience; calmness; sedateness; moderation of passion.

2. What is the Greek from which it is translated? What is a more practical word for Temperance?

G1466

From G1468; self control (especially continence): - temperance.

From G1722 and G2904; strong in a thing (masterful), that is, (figuratively and reflexively) self controlled (in appetite, etc.): - temperate

3. With respect to Temperance, Self-Control, why does Peter list Self Control to be added to faith after Virtue (fortitude) and Knowledge? Is this a progression?

Eph_6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

(1Co 8:1 WNT) Now as to things which have been sacrificed to idols. This is a subject which we already understand--because we all have knowledge of it. Knowledge, however, tends to (can) make people conceited; it is love that builds us up.

(1Co 8:2 WNT) If any one imagines that he already possesses any true knowledge, he has as yet attained to no knowledge of the kind to which he ought to have attained;

4. Peter urges diligence in verse 2Pe 1:5, 10 and again in 2Pe 3:14. How does this apply to self-control? Is achieving this an easy, one-time effort (“once and done”)? Explain.

Pro_24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Jas_5:7 ...the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth

Joh 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Jas 1:4 But let patience (endurance) have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting (lacking) nothing.

Mal 3:3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

5. How long and how hard did Paul work at this? What does it mean to beat the air?

1Co 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1Co 9:26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

1Co 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

2Ti 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

6. What is the meaning of Pro 16:32? What is required to successfully lay siege to a city? What is the comparison to ruling one's own spirit? Why is this "better?"

Pro 16:32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit (better) than he that taketh a city.

R3629 THE WORK FOR A CONVERTED WILL

TO BESIEGE and capture a city is a great undertaking, because every city has its massive defences of law and force, and is built with all the probable contingencies of attacks from enemies in view... And the victory of such a general will depend on his superior skill and ingenuity in utilizing the various forces and advantages in his possession against those employed by the defenders of the city.

It indicates indomitable purpose, methodical planning and skill in execution, though these good qualities are often exercised in a bad cause.

To rule one's spirit (mind, disposition) implies a conflict similar to that of taking a city; Consequently, the wise "general" will invoke all the assistance at his command, remembering the words of the Apostle--"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the powers of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." These powers of the world, the flesh, and the devil are all closely allied; and, therefore, he who plans for conquest and an established reign thereafter must seek alliance with another and a stronger power; which power is tendered to all who earnestly undertake the great work. This power is none other than the almighty arm of our God, who says to all who accept his strength, "Greater is he that is for you than all they that be against you;" gird yourselves like men, fear not, be strong.

7. How extensive/pervasive must self-control be for the Lord's saints?

1Co_9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

Eph_4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Tit 2:7 In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

Tit 2:8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Dan_6:5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

8. In what areas of life and character must temperance be exhibited?

R4808 SPIRITUAL GROWTH

(4) Am I temperate, moderate, exercising self-control in all things--in eating, in drinking, in home arrangements, in conduct, in thoughts, in words, in deeds? Do I realize that self-control is one of the most important elements of good character? "He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city," is the counsel of the Wise Man; and many a victorious general has yet to learn to conquer and control himself. Self-control has to do with all our sentiments, thoughts, tastes, appetites, labors, pleasures, sorrows and hopes. Its cultivation, therefore, means a high order of character-development. Self-control, accompanied by faith, fortitude, knowledge from on High, implies increased zeal and activity in Divine things, and increased moderation in earthly things. In judgment, in conduct, in the regulation of temporal affairs, etc., "Let your moderation [temperance, self-control] be known unto all men." (`Php_4:5` .) Let them see by our thoughtful (not rash and hasty), careful and considerate demeanor, in every affair of life, that we honor our profession.

9. How does temperance (moderation) apply to our joys, sorrows, things we value?

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

10. Are we to be “moderate” in the pursuit of making our calling and election sure, serving the Lord, etc.? Explain. What did the fat represent in Lev 8:16, 16:25? What does “the fat’s in the fire” generally mean? But: 1Ti 5:8

Php_3:13 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,

1Co 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Lev 8:16 And he took all the fat that was upon the inwards, and the caul above the liver, and the two kidneys, and their fat, and Moses burned it upon the altar.

Lev 16:25 And the fat of the sin offering shall he burn upon the altar.

1Ti_5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

11. How is temperance a part of being perfect? What does “perfect” mean with respect to temperance, and all of 2Pe 1:5-8? How about “purity?”

Perfect

Strong's: G5056; complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neuter (as noun, with G3588) completeness: - of full age, man, perfect.

Webster 1828 –

1. Finished; complete; consummate; not defective; having all that is requisite to its nature and kind; as a perfect statue; a perfect likeness; a perfect work; a perfect system.

As full, as perfect in a hair as heart.

2. Fully informed; completely skilled; as men perfect in the use of arms; perfect in discipline.

3. Complete in moral excellencies. Mat 5:28

Mat 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect (complete), even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect (complete).

Jas_1:4 But let patience have her perfect work (complete), that ye may be perfect (complete) and entire, wanting nothing.

Purity, clean

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1Jn 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Tit_1:15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

Isa_52:11 Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.

1Jn_3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Psa 24:3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

Psa 24:4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

12. How important is temperance in our life-role as ambassadors of Christ? As epistles of Christ? Explain.

2Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

2Co 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

2Co 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Php 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

R3089

We are not to be hasty and hot-tempered, or rash and thoughtless. But we should strive to be evenly balanced, thoughtful and considerate: our whole manner should be characterized by that carefulness which would indicate that we are ever mindful of the Lord's pleasure, of our responsibility to him as his representatives, and of our influence upon our fellow-men, to see that it always is for good, never for evil.

13. What tools and resources do we have to achieve Temperance in all things?

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture given by inspiration of God, and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Luk 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

14. How does the renewing of our mind make self-control easier and more successful? (Does a TRAIN need a steering wheel? Why not?)

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

R3304-OUR YEAR TEXT FOR 1904

But the number of watchmen or pickets doing duty and standing guard over our actions and words will be fewer in proportion as the picket line guarding our minds, our thoughts, is a strong one. It is here that we need to be especially on the alert.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

15. Will temperance make us feel restrained and morose?

2Co 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

2Co 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2Jn 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

2Jn 1:12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

16. If we are having trouble with temperance (self-control) what may this tell us about our human will – is it really dead? What is the destiny of those who won't do the things in 2Pe 1:5-8?

R4255- SAUL AND DAVID IN REVIEW

The flaw in Saul's character was his lack of a full consecration to the Lord, his maintaining a certain amount of self-will. This seemed to have been the difficulty. A similar difficulty affects all who fail to make their calling and election sure. Whether they go into the Second Death or the Great Company, the fault of the failure lies in neglect to

surrender fully to the Lord every interest of life and to accept in faith his leadings, his providences in all the affairs of life, seeking to do his will and ignoring--mortifying--self.

Jas 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

2Pe 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Pe 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Sow an act, reap an act

Sow an act, reap a habit

Sow a habit, reap a character

Sow a character, reap a destiny

17. How do difficult experiences, setbacks, insults, injustices, false witnesses, etc. help us to develop self-control? Should we be thankful for these? How are NASA astronauts trained and tested to stay on mission even under severe difficulties? How important is our "mission?"

Mat 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Jas_1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

1Pe 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1Pe 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

1Pe 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

1Pe 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

1Pe 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

1Pe 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

1Pe 2:23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Mat 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Mat 5:40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.

Mat 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Act 16:23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely:

Act 16:24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

Act 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth (train, corrects, instructs) , and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Isa 1:25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

Pro 25:4 Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the refiner.

1Co 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

18. How can we make Temperance a personal goal? Have YOU made this personal?

See: R1627 APPLYING TRUTH TO ONE'S SELF

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto **ME** exceeding great and precious promises: that by these **I** might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2Pe 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, **I** will add to **MY** faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

2Pe 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

2Pe 1:7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2Pe 1:8 For if these things be in **me**, and abound, they make me that **I** shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Pe 1:9 But if **I** that lack these things **I** am blind, and **I** cannot see afar off, and **I** have forgotten that **I** was purged from his old sins.

2Pe 1:10 Wherefore the rather, **I** must give diligence to make **MY** calling and election sure: for if **I** do these things, **I** will never fall:

2Pe 1:11 For so an entrance will be ministered unto **ME** abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of **MY** Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

