

## SECOND PETER CHAPTER 1

### Lesson 9

### TEMPERANCE

3 October, 2014

**2 Peter 1:5-6** --“add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; <sup>6</sup> And to knowledge—temperance.”

- Self Control. Control of language, anger, emotions, lusts, etc.
  - Habitual moderation in regard to the indulgence of the natural appetites or passions.
  - Restrained or moderate indulgence of mirth (amusement, laughter) or sadness.
  - The opposite of Excess (too much).
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**1 Cor. 9:26-27** The Apostle Paul described the necessity to keep his body under constant control so that his indulgences (excesses) don't damage his testimony and thereby make him “a castaway” (no longer useful to God as a witness).

- Notice the personal responsibility. The Holy Spirit doesn't control you, but will enable you to control your body—if that is what you WANT.
  - If you claim to know the Lord Jesus Christ; if you claim to be a Christian, YOU need to get control of your habits, vices, emotions, feelings, etc. because GOD is not going to rewire you so that your natural desires go away. He commands you to control your tongue, eyes, hands, feet, and thoughts.
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**James 5:17** The Prophet Elijah had to deal with the same passions that every man deals with. When he was faced with uncontrolled anger, despair, self-pity, temptation, etc, --he didn't quit; he prayed earnestly—and continued to serve God.

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**Gal. 5:22-24** Temperance is a fruit of the spirit. It requires you, as a believer, to “**crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts.**”

- Forsake the obviously bad habits and immorality, but don't stop there.
  - Learn to put down your anger, unforgiving spirit, bitterness, lusts, inordinate affections, pride, gossip, etc.
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**1 Pet. 2:21-24** Jesus Christ is our perfect example of a temperate man.

- He was reviled (insulted, abused), but He controlled the natural urge to return the unkind words.
- He suffered at the hands of wicked men, but He didn't threaten to get even with them.
- In fact, He took all that physical and mental abuse and then offered his tormenters eternal life, the greatest gift in the world.

- Because of Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us, the Bible says, "**By whose stripes ye were healed.**" This has nothing to do with physical healing, but with emotional healing. You will suffer wrong at the hands of sinners and be reviled and mentally abused.
    - You can be healed of the bitterness, anger, resentment, feelings of revenge, distracting thoughts about your tormenters, etc.
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**Matt. 5:43-48**

The Lord Jesus gives some instructions that are impossible for the natural man, apart from God's control.

- Love your enemies
  - Bless them that curse you
  - Do good to them that hate you
  - Pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.
    - You'll have to purposefully put your feelings aside to accomplish this.
    - Don't let the circumstances, actions of others, or your own flesh govern your actions. YOU must govern your flesh.
    - God doesn't let what people do to Him change who He is (vs. 45). We should do likewise.
  - Don't just love them which love you (vs. 46). That doesn't require any temperance. You can do that in the flesh.
  - Go beyond the expected response (vs. 47). Stand out as a person who can control himself/herself in every situation.
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**Philippians 4:5**

You should have the reputation of a person who is always under control.

- Your tongue is under control.
  - Your passions are under control.
  - Your appetites are under control.
  - Your emotions are under control.
  - Don't be the one people expect to "go postal" (lose control and get violent).
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**Acts 24:24-25**

Felix, Governor of Caesarea, heard Paul preach of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come. The reason he didn't respond to God's offer of salvation (righteousness) and deliverance from wrath in the day of judgment— is because he was not willing to be temperate (control the lusts of his flesh).

- He was in an adulterous relationship with Drusilla, the wife of Azizus, king of the Emesenes.
  - He was not willing to control his flesh, his sins, and his appetites to live a godly life.
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