

2 Peter

(Lesson 5)

Introduction:

1. Some special blessings are revealed in 2 Peter 1:1-11 that God has provided for the benefit of His people.
 - a. (vs.3-4) He has provided what we need so we can be "*partakers of the divine nature*," including "*all things that pertain unto life and godliness*" and "*exceeding great and precious promises*."
 - b. (vs.5-11) He has provided "the Christian graces" to prevent His people from falling.
2. The 7 characteristics listed in vs.5-7 are to be added with "*all diligence*."
3. Review:
 - a. "*Faith*" is the foundation upon which these graces are to be added.
 - b. "*Virtue*" [courage, the determination to do what is right] is the first grace.
 - c. "*Knowledge*" [moral wisdom, such as seen in right living] is the second grace.
4. In this lesson we are concentrating on the third of the Christian graces: "*temperance*."

Discussion:

- I. LET US DEFINE "*TEMPERANCE*"
 - A. Temperance: self-control, self-discipline, mastering the desires and passions, the ability to control one's own life.
 - B. Some Bible characters who practiced "*temperance*" include:
 1. Jesus [1 Peter 2:21-23 -- He abstained from sinful activities]
 2. Paul [1 Corinthians 6:12; 8:13; 10:31-33 -- he abstained from activities that might have caused others to stumble].
 - C. The opposite is self-indulgence, as illustrated by Solomon (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11).
- II. NUMEROUS PASSAGES TEACH US TO PRACTICE "*TEMPERANCE*"
 - A. (Matthew 16:24) Jesus commanded His followers to practice "self-denial."
 - B. (Romans 12:1-3) We are to present ourselves as "living sacrifices" to God.
 - C. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20) We are to glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits.
 - D. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) Just as athletes practice "*temperance*," Christians must be temperate, as well.
 - E. (Galatians 5:22-23) "*Temperance*" is part of "the fruit of the Spirit."
 - F. (1 Thessalonians 5:22) We are to "*abstain from all appearance of evil*."
 - G. (1 Peter 2:9-11) As "*a royal priesthood*" we are to abstain from things that "*war against the soul*."
- III. SOME SPECIFIC AREAS IN WHICH WE ARE TO PRACTICE "*TEMPERANCE*"
 - A. Our thoughts (Psalm 139:23-24; Philippians 4:8).
 - B. Anger (Ephesians 4:26-27; James 1:19-20).
 - C. The tongue (Ephesians 4:29; James 1:26; 3:2).
 - D. Love of money (1 Timothy 6:10).

Conclusion:

1. Exercising "*temperance*" is sometimes challenging because of sacrifices that must be made.
2. However, the Lord taught in Matthew 19:29 that He will bless us for the sacrifices that we make on His behalf.