

Temperance

Scripture Text: 2 Peter 1:6

Temperance is defined as “abstinence from strong drink; self-control.”

Biblically, temperance is defined as “self-control, self-mastery, restraint.” In Greek, the word *egkrateia* (eng-krat'-i-ah) appears three times in four verses. The word for temperate (*egkrates*, eng-krat-ace') appears once in Titus 1:8.

This lesson's goal is to analyze the three verses that use temperance and see how we can utilize this quality in our lives.

1. Acts 24:25 – Paul Preaches to Felix

A. Context of Acts 24:22-27

22: more exact – term of comparison

23: situation probably similar to later Roman imprisonment.

Luke may have started writing Acts here. [?]

24: Drusilla: member of infamous Herod family. Father killed James, 12:1-2; great uncle killed John the Baptist, Mt. 14:1-12; great-grand father tried to kill baby Jesus, Mt. 2. Jewess – great-grandmother a famous Jew

Felix on 3rd wife. He seduced her at age 16 from her husband, now almost 20 “as fair outwardly as she was rotten inwardly.” Chappell

25: “stopped preaching, started meddling”

3 point sermon: 3 false accusations against Paul; now, 3 painfully true accusations against Felix & Drusilla

Righteousness – one of P's fav. Words. 60x

Self-control – fruit of spirit, Chr. Graces – physically, sexually, & spiritually

Judgment – not live in moment. Same 17:30-31

26: didn't find time to talk with Paul about salvation only about trying to get money

27: days > weeks > months > 1 year > 2 years

2nd hearing of v. 22 never happened [?]

Sec. history: Felix deposed by Nero, summoned to Rome, AD 59. Paul arrested AD57, Felix to Rome 2 years later. AD59. Journey to Rome AD60. Book closes AD62.

B. When Paul preached, his message was effective.

C. There are too many Felixes in the church!

2. Galatians 5:23 – the Fruit of the Spirit

- A. Paul gives instructions in v. 16-18 (flesh vs. spirit)
- B. Works of the flesh – v. 19-21
 - 1. Similar list given in Romans 1:29-32. (V. 28 – God gave them over to a reprobate mind)
 - 2. Shall not inherit the Kingdom of God
 - 3. 17 works are listed – plus a catch-all
 - 4. Are you doomed to forever be a fornicator? (as an example) No! 1 Cor. 6:9-11
- C. Fruit of the Spirit – v. 22-23
 - 1. “But” – conjunction; read as a change in the story
 - 2. 9 fruit
 - 3. Matthew 7:15-20 – known by our fruit
- D. Two wolves

3. 2 Peter 1:6 – the Christian Graces

- A. Marshall Keeble: “Five Steps into the Church and Seven Steps into Heaven”
- B. “Christian Ladder” – climb the steps
- C. V. 8-11 – the application
 - 1. V. 8 – not be unfruitful (see 2. C. 3, *above*)
 - 2. V. 9 – not be blind
 - 3. V. 10 – diligence (v. 5, 2 Timothy 2:15)
 - 4. V. 11 – Entrance into Heaven

Temperance was important enough that Paul preached it, that Christians are to cultivate it, and that Christians are to use it to enter into Heaven!

Only climbing one step won't get you to the goal.

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