

SOME LESSONS FROM II PETER 1

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VIRTUE OR COURAGE

2 Peter 1: 5 – 12

INTRODUCTION

1. Peter says in our text (2 Pet. 1: 5 – 12) that Christians MUST add virtue or courage to their faith in order to keep from falling.
2. COURAGE means: Manly strength; valor; bravery; resolution – I Cor. 16:13.
3. The Lord needs men and women with courage who will stand up and be counted.
 - a. There is no room in the kingdom for the wishy-washy kind of Christian.

I. WE NEED COURAGE TO STAND BY OUR CONVICTIONS

- a. Christians need courage to speak the Word of God boldly on all moral issues.
 - i. There are many moral issues before the people of God today; if the church is to stay pure, we must take out stand.
 - ii. Paul was a man of COURAGE – 2 Cor. 4:13; Rom. 1: 16; 2 Tim. 1:8; Phil. 1: 14, 17.
 - iii. With courage of our convictions we need to speak out against all worldliness – I John 2: 15 – 17; James 4:4.
 - iv. Just a few of the moral issues that are before us today:
 1. Marriage and Divorce for any cause – Matt. 19:9.
 2. Lasciviousness in the form of:
 - a. Dancing
 - b. Nudity (shorts and dresses that are too short)
 - c. “Adult” movies
 3. Pre-marital sex; fornication – Eph. 5:3 – 5; I Cor. 6:18; I Cor. 7:2.
 4. Drinking – Gal. 5: 19 – 21.
 5. Drugs
 - v. Many so-called Christians refuse to take a stand against all worldliness because they fear adverse criticism – I Pet. 4:4.
- b. Christians need courage to speak the Word of God on all doctrinal issues.
 - i. Paul was a man who stood – Gal. 2: 4 – 5.
 1. He taught Timothy – 2 Tim. 4: 1- 5.
 2. We must speak our convictions against digression in every form:
 - a. Premillennialism
 - b. No class issue
 - c. Liberalism and modernism
 - d. Institutionalism
 - e. Social gospel

3. Christians must speak out against denominationalism.
 - a. Denominationalism is a synonym for division – Gal. 5:20.
 - b. We must teach our friends what is wrong with denominationalism.

II. WHAT COURAGE TO STAND FOR THE RIGHT MEANS:

- a. It means the courage to obey the Lord whatever the COST.
 - i. There is a price to be paid – Luke 14: 25 – 33.
 - ii. Abraham had this kind of courage; he had courage to offer his son – Gen. 22: 1- 13.
 - iii. Moses had this kind of courage – Heb. 11: 24 – 25.
- b. It means the courage to guard your virtue in time of temptation.
 - i. Joseph had this kind of courage – Gen. 39: 7 – 20.
 - ii. Joseph preferred prison to an immoral act with Potiphar’s wife.
 - iii. It takes courage to turn from temptation – I Cor. 10:13.
- c. It means courage to trust God.
 - i. Jesus teaches the need for this kind of courage in Matt. 6: 25 – 34.
 - ii. Rom. 8:28
- d. It means courage to reprove sinners:
 - i. John the Baptist had this kind of courage – Matt. 14:1 – 13.
 - ii. Peter – Acts 8: 20 – 23
 - iii. 2 Tim. 4: 1 – 5.
- e. It means courage to preach the gospel.
 - i. 2 Tim. 4: 1- 5.
 - ii. A false teacher is not only one who teaches error, one is also a false teacher when he fails to teach what people need.
 - iii. It takes courage to preach what people need – Isa 30:10.

III. PETER DESCRIBES THE CONDITION OF THOSE WHO LACK THE COURAGE OF THEIR CONVICTIONS – 2 Pet. 1: 9 – 12

- a. They are blind spiritually – 2 Pet. 1:9
- b. They cannot see afar off; nearsighted.
- c. They have forgotten that they were purged from their old sins.
- d. They shall fall.

CONCLUSION

- As a Christian, do you have the courage to stand by your convictions on every moral and spiritual issue that confronts you?
- If you are not a Christian, do you have the courage to obey your convictions by becoming a Christian?

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KNOWLEDGE

2 Peter 1: 5 – 9

INTRODUCTION

1. There is no more important subject that could be studied than this subject.
2. The greatest need of God's people today is KNOWLEDGE.
3. Ignorance of God's will is synonymous with sin.
 - a. Paul, in Ephesians, points out this truth – Eph. 4: 17 – 18.
 - b. Paul talks about his own ignorance – I Tim. 1:13.
 - c. Paul talks about the Jews of his day – Rom. 10: 1- 3.
 - d. The sins of the Gentiles – Rom. 1:28 (18 – ff).
 - e. God's people of old destroyed for lack of knowledge – Hosea 4:6.
4. God no longer winks at ignorance – Acts 17:30.
 - a. We are commanded to know what the will of the Lord is – Eph. 5:17.
 - b. We are to grow in KNOWLEDGE – 2 Pet. 3:18.

I. THERE IS A REAL NEED FOR KNOWLEDGE IN THE CHURCH TODAY.

- a. Many are UNCONCERNED about knowledge.
 - i. Many spend more time and effort on ENTERTAINMENT than they do in learning God's will.
 - ii. Many churches of Christ today are emphasizing recreation and entertainment to the neglect of teaching God's will.
- b. There are TWO reasons why members of the church are ignorant:
 - i. Some are ignorant because they have been too careless to take advantage of the opportunities.
 - ii. Some are ignorant because they have rejected knowledge – Hosea 4: 6 – 9; Rom. 1: 18 – 32.
 - iii. Bible ignorance in the church is distressing.
 1. Paul described some as carnal and dull of hearing because of ignorance – I Cor. 3: 1- 4; Heb. 5: 11 -14.
 2. Some have been Christians for years and haven't gotten past first principles – Heb. 5: 12 – 14; 6: 1- 2.
 - iv. Bible ignorance prevents some from faithfulness.
 1. Because of ignorance, many honest and sincere brethren are led astray – Eph. 4:14, 11 – 13; Col. 2: 6 – 8.
 2. Because of ignorance many miss many opportunities for teaching others – I Pet.3:15.

II. PROBLEMS THAT RESULT FROM A LACK OF BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

- a. The problem of the untaught and false teachers.
 - i. The false teacher would be almost powerless if it were not for the untaught in the church – Eph. 4: 13 – 14.

- ii. The false teacher gets his footing among the ignorant – Rom. 16:18
- b. The problem of the untaught and plain preaching.
 - i. Inappreciative or belligerent attitudes toward the preacher creates unrest and lack of cooperation in the congregation.
 - ii. There is no way of knowing the harm the untaught has done by apologizing for the truth when it has been preached.
- c. The untaught are lacking in moral judgment.
 - i. Christians are to be separate from the world – 2 Cor. 6: 14 – 17; I John 2: 15 – 17.
 - ii. Many times, the untaught lack in moral judgment here – Heb. 5: 12 – 14; Phil. 1: 9- 10.
- d. The untaught and indifference:
 - i. Indifference is just plain unconcernedness; it is gnawing away at the very vitals of the church today.
 - ii. Yet, it is the ignorant and untaught who are self-satisfied and complacent.
 - iii. The untaught hold back the growth of the church.

III. WE NEED TO MAKE A DILIGENT EFFORT TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE.

- a. Obtaining a knowledge of God's word requires effort.
 - i. We need not to expect to have a knowledge of God's word without diligent effort – 2 Tim. 2:15; Eccl. 12:12.
 - ii. Some are too lazy to put forth the effort it takes to learn God's word.
- b. Various methods can be used to gain the knowledge of God's word that we need.
 - i. We can gain knowledge by studying the Bible itself.
 - ii. We can gain knowledge by reading religious papers, tracts, sermons, and good books.
 - iii. We can gain knowledge by hearing preaching, attending Bible classes and debates.

CONCLUSION

Are you making every effort to add knowledge to your faith?

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SELF-CONTROL

2 Peter 1: 6

INTRODUCTION

1. “*TEMPERANCE*” in this text is better rendered “SELF-CONTROL” because the word *temperance* today is limited to one form of self-control.
2. SELF-CONTROL is the bringing of all our appetites, desires, and passions into harmony with the will of God.
3. Man must learn SELF-CONTROL since the appetites and passions of the body can be abused and misused – Sin is the result of the abuse.

I. GOD REQUIRES SELF-CONTROL OF HIS CHILDREN

- a. The Christian must control the body – I Cor. 9:27.
 - i. God intended our bodies to be our servants, not our masters – hence we must control our bodies if we are to grow to spiritual maturity.
- b. We must have self-control with respect to hunger.
 - i. Hunger is a very strong desire of man, and is good and for his pleasure when properly fulfilled.
 - ii. But, if man does not control this desire which is for his good, he may become a glutton.
- c. We must have self-control with respect to strong drink.
 - i. Self-control may mean moderation in some things and complete abstinence in others.
 - ii. With regard to strong drink, self-control demands complete abstinence.
 - iii. Alcoholic beverages are habit forming, and brings one to wreck and ruin – Eph. 5:18; Rom. 13:13; Prov. 23: 29 – 33.
- d. God has also given man certain desire of the body called sexual desires, which are just as clean as the desire for hunger.
 - i. God intended this desire to be fulfilled and satisfied in marriage – Heb. 13:4; I Cor. 7: 2 – 5.
 - ii. When this desire is satisfied out of the marriage relationship, it is sin – Fornication – I Cor. 7:2; 6:18.
 - iii. Making love, kissing, close embrace, and the enjoyment of this is not sinful in marriage.
 - iv. But, when these things are done out of the marriage relationship they are sinful – Lasciviousness – Gal. 5: 19.
 - v. There are times in the life of every individual that these desire cannot be fulfilled, therefore the necessity of self-control.
- e. We must have self-control with respect to opinions.
 - i. All people have opinions.
 - ii. We must control them, and not force them on others – Rom. 14:22.
- f. We must have self-control with respect to tattling.
 - i. It is so easy to talk about someone – I Tim. 5:13.
 - ii. Self-control is required – 2 Thess. 3:11 -12; I Pet. 4:15.

- g. We must also control our spirits – Eph. 4; 26.
 - i. He who does this is great – Prov. 16:32 – *“he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*
 - ii. There is no place in Christianity for hate, envy, and bitter recriminations as we sometimes find among brethren – Eph. 4: 31 – 32.
- h. Christians must control their thoughts.
 - i. I Pet. 1:13; Matt. 12: 34 – 35; Mark. 7: 21 – 23.

II. DEVELOPING SELF-CONTROL IS A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- a. God encourages us, but leaves the fight to the individual – I Cor. 9:27.
- b. Matt. 5: 29 – 33 gives us the principle that we must completely cut off anything that would interfere with giving ourselves whole-heartedly to the Lord.
- c. Self-discipline is the paramount test of manhood and womanhood.
 - i. Reuben was *“unstable as water”* with no power within to control – Gen. 49:4.
 - ii. Those who have no self-control are worthless to themselves and others, being tossed to and fro.
 - iii. The lack of self-control is the primary reason many a promising young boy or girl never amounts to much.
- d. Self-control can be developed by observing these principles:
 - i. Follow the example of godly men and women – Heb. 13:7.
 - ii. Avoid evil companions – I Cor. 15:33.
 - iii. Live your life according to purpose – Acts 11:23; Dan. 1:8.
 - iv. Discipline in the home will develop self-control in young people – Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22: 6.
- e. Avoid the first indulgence in evil – 2 Tim. 2: 22; I Thess. 5:22.
- f. Sow a thought, and you reap an act; Sow an act, and you reap a habit; Sow a habit, and you reap a character; Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.

CONCLUSION

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