

VIRTUE → KNOWLEDGE → SELF-CONTROL

- *His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supple virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, 2Pet. 1:2-6*
- God did His part...Are we doing our part?

VIRTUE → KNOWLEDGE → SELF-CONTROL

- **Two parables**
- *the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Mt. 13:44*
- *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? 1Cor. 9:24*
- **Everyone has virtue in regard to good fortune and excelling! Only need to be identified!**
- **They only need the knowledge of the best way to direct them.**
- **Then comes the need for Self-Control!**

VIRTUE → KNOWLEDGE → SELF-CONTROL

- ✦ *They then do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable. 26 therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.*
1Cor. 9:24-27
- ✦ **Paul understood the need to pay the price!**
- ✦ **He wanted to be the best in achievement/reward**
- ✦ **He knew and understood what he needed to do.**
He exerted the self-control necessary to run, box, buffet and enslave the body.
- ✦ **So he would not be disqualified!**

VIRTUE → KNOWLEDGE → SELF-CONTROL

- ✘ To compete in the games, one needs *virtue* to lead them to *excellence of achievement* and *mastery*.
- ✘ Only *virtue* will make the necessary sacrifices.
- ✘ Yet great desire leads nowhere without a good coach to train and guide them (*knowledge*)
- ✘ *Virtue* and *knowledge* prepare for success, But to make it happen one must have *self-control!*
- ✘ Without *self-control*, the hours of necessary training will never happen.
- ✘ Those who want to win (*virtue*) and know how to **win**(*knowledge*), still must push beyond what others will endure (*self-control*) to win the race.

VIRTUE → **KNOWLEDGE** → **SELF-CONTROL**

- ✘ We must do the same. VIRTUE and KNOWLEDGE always need SELF-CONTROL to progress
- ✘ Without SELF-CONTROL, VIRTUE and KNOWLEDGE will never reach a goal.
- ✘ VIRTUE compels and motivates us to learn all we can about good and evil.
- ✘ Through KNOWLEDGE the Spirit revealed them “*to those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*” (Heb. 5:14).
- ✘ After we “*test all things;*” we can’t “*hold fast what is good,*” and “*abstain from every form of evil*” (1Th. 5:21-22), without SELF-CONTROL.

SELF- CONTROL

- ✘ “*egkrates*,... 2. *having power over, possessed of* (a thing),... 3. *mastering, controlling, curbing, restraining,...* *controlling one’s self, temperate...*” (Thayer, p 167; 1466)
- ✘ “*egkrates* ... denotes *power* or *lordship* and which expresses the *power* or *lordship* which one has either *over oneself* or *over something...* *having power in oneself, ...*It thus means “*to have power or dominion ...*” i.e., “*to be inwardly strong.*” (Kittel, 1466)

NO PAIN – NO GAIN

✦ *If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. Mt 5:29-30*

There is no question that self-control is painful

ARE WE MAKING EXCUSES?

- ✘ *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. 1Cor 10:13*
- ✘ *Each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed Jas. 1:14*
- ✘ *You have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin: Heb 12:4*

I AM ONLY HUMAN

- ✘ A human proverb – not in Scripture
- ✘ We are created in image and likeness of God. Gen 1:26-27
- ✘ Partakers of the divine nature 2Pet. 1:5
- ✘ Jesus as a man endured all temptation
- ✘ *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Heb. 4:14-16*

WE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

- ✘ *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Rom. 6:12-14*
- ✘ **We can endure more than we think!**

WE PUT TO DEATH... WE BUFFET OUR BODY

- ✦ **Rom 8:12-13** *So then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh: 13 for if ye live after the flesh, ye must die; but if by the Spirit ye put to death the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*
- ✦ *27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.* **1Cor 9:25**

HOW WE PUT OUR BODY TO DEATH

- ✘ *Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” Lk. 9:23*
- ✘ *“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple” Lk. 14:27*
- ✘ **Deny Ourselves: Exercising Self-Control**
- ✘ **For this Jesus gave each of us a cross.**
- ✘ **Gaining self-control... learn how to use it**

THE CROSS

- ✘ Without a **cross** (**self-control**), one “*cannot be My disciple,*” for “*he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me*” Mt. 10:38.
- ✘ Therefore, “*if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross*” Mt. 16:24-25
- ✘ NOTE: Jesus never told His disciples to carry “My cross.” He said each disciple must take up “his own cross.”
- ✘ Jesus used Rome’s cross as a spiritual parable.
- ✘ It is one of the “*weapons of our warfare*” (2Cor. 10:3-6).

SELF-CONTROL

- ✘ *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” Gal. 2:20*
- ✘ *“those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” Gal. 5:24*
- ✘ Jesus expected us to suffer agony in self-denial.
- ✘ We use our cross until the temptation is dead
- ✘ It is excruciating to kill our own will and submit.
- ✘ This is why we need the cross daily!
- ✘ *Self-control* is painful, but nailed to our cross, with no choice but to remain there, we endure.
- ✘ **It will take both virtue and knowledge to get it!**

SELF-CONTROL

✦ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6
Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8
But now you yourselves are to PUT OFF all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,
Col. 3:5-9 **THEY DO NOT DIE EASILY!**

SELF-CONTROL

- ✦ *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, Titus 2:11-12*
- ✦ *for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Rom. 8:13*

THE UPWARD CALL OR DOWNWARD SPIRAL

- ✘ Our present level of self-control is a combination of past victories, paths averted and the agonizing crucifixion of lusts
- ✘ It is hindered by our failures and excuses.
- ✘ We all tie ourselves to sin by the threads of habit we create when we give in to temptation. Succumbing strengthens the habit and binds us. Habits are broken the same way we created them One thought and one deed at a time.
- ✘ Under grace are forgiven and live to fight again.

✘ *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, Titus 2:11-12*

SELF-CONTROL

- ✦ *Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 2 Tim. 2:19-21*

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- *Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city broken down, without walls. Pr. 25:28*
 - *Regardless of our potential, without self-control, we will never reach it.*
 - *And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Gal 5:24*
 - *Are we Christ's or are we still a city without walls?*