

## 0 **Promoting Growth: Self-Control (i)**

2 Peter 1:5-9

### 1 **Introduction**

- Are you growing in the Lord?
- If we are seeking to be able to guard the truth (personally, for your own sake and corporately, for the church's sake) we need to be growing
  - Peter shows us how
    - We begin with a faith of the same kind as the apostles: precious
    - We 'bring in' virtue: we incorporate the growth of a god-like character
    - We add to that, knowledge
      - Not as an end in itself
      - As a goal to know our God and develop skill in walking with Him

### 2 **Then we add self-control**

- To live a disciplined life
  - We must be willing to be trained
    - To be taught
    - To live a structured life
  - To overcome
    - The world
    - The flesh
    - The devil
    - The temptations of the world

### 3 **Why Self-Control?**

- It speaks to the ministry of the Holy Spirit
  - It is part of that fruit that is fostered in the life of a believer (Gal 5:22-23)
  - It is we who walk in the Spirit with the understanding that the 'deeds of the flesh' must be overcome (Gal 5:16-17)
  - When Peter says 'applying all diligence' he is not doing so absent the ministry of the Holy Spirit but because of it
    - See Philippians 2:12-13
    - Rather, we give honor to God and thanks to His name for His work of grace in each of our lives

### 4 **Why Self-Control?**

- It speaks to pursuing a "blameless conscience" both before God and man (Acts 24:16)
  - As much as we may want to do – it isn't about "going along to get along"
    - Remember: society has its way or path to follow but it is contrary to our Lord and His way or path
    - We walk or live our lives antithetically from the world
    - We walk "against the grain"
    - Living in God's way/path, of necessity, is a confrontation with the world for the good of humanity

### 5 **Why Self-Control?**

- It speaks to pursuing a “blameless conscience” both before God and man (Acts 24:16)
  - It is about thinking God’s thoughts after Him (mindset)
    - How we reasoned and thought about things was contrary to God’s thoughts
  - It is about honoring the Lord with the whole of life (thankful)
    - How we lived was as ungrateful, complaining creatures
  - It is about representing the Lord faithfully before others by loving one’s neighbor (letting the gospel be the offense)
    - Humanity needs to know the truth about its condition and remedy

#### 6 **Why Self-Control?**

- It speaks to the nature of the relationship to God that humanity has as His creatures
  - We were created to live in ‘union and communion’ with the living God in which we love Him and remain faithful to Him
  - In rejecting the true and living God, we turn to some form of the creature (false and dead) to worship
    - We are ruled by that which we give ourselves to
      - Lusts ‘appetites’ ‘belly’
      - By that which we are consumed
      - We think we are ‘free’ but are enslaved

#### 7 **How does Self-Control relate to growth?**

- Self-Control helps to ‘bridge the gap’ between theory and practice / application of God’s truth to life
  - You may be told how to apply a particular truth to life
  - You may be shown how to apply a particular truth to life
  - You may be given the opportunity to demonstrate that application to life
  - But unless you embrace it as your own before God
    - You will never continue in it
    - You will never make it a regular part of life

#### 8 **Final Thoughts**

- Never forget
  - Self-Control is...
    - Not about what you can do apart from the Lord and the grace He provides in your life
    - About understanding that God’s grace is operative in your life
    - About understanding that ‘without Him’ you could do nothing at all
    - Not about ‘if you do your part, God will do His’
      - He is already at work in you ‘both to do and to will for His good pleasure’