

ACTS 31

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ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK



We continue to appreciate that part of our covenant which reads in part, “We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit ... to strive for the advancement of this New Testament Baptist Church ... to promote its prosperity and spirituality ...”

It is of great importance that this portion of our covenant be carefully understood as our Church is the Lord's and that God is much interested in the spirituality of His children. Today, we will dwell with “temperance,” a spiritual trait that each of us must continually abound in.

Temperance is a Bible word. Another word for temperance is moderation. Particularly, it refers to habitual moderation in regard to the indulgence of our natural appetites and passions. It is exercising restraint in our activities as well as our wants and needs as temperance in eating, drinking, joy, and mirth. Temperance in eating and drinking is opposed to gluttony and drunkenness.

Our memory verse explicitly declares the value of temperance.

Here is a statement that operationalizes temperament – ruling our spirit. To rule means to govern, sway, control, or even exercise command. Such a control though is not driven by impulse but a government that is established by principle, standard or directory. Thus, a statute or law is the rule that must govern civil conduct. To us believers, the laws of God (His Word) are rules in directing our lives.

Here further is a statement of the object of control – our spirit. The term spirit here refers to our excitement, ar-

dor, fire, and courage. It further refers to our vigor of intellect as well as the disposition of our mind, habitual or temporary. In addition, to exercise control over our spirit includes restraint of the will and actions.

Here is a statement that shows the tragedy of lack of self-restraint. No matter how rich, intelligent, and skillful a person is, without temperance, he could be destroyed in an instance. Our rich resources would do us no good if we fail to exercise self-restraint upon ourselves. Paul, in I Timothy 3, applies this truth this way: “If a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?” Temperance indeed is a trait each of us must strive hard to attain in our lifetime.

The world, especially in our time, is vigorously promoting licentious living. Temperance seems to be outdated. It is high time that such a godly trait be preserved as God meant it to be and be promoted by the saved such as us.

May each of us be found always abounding in moderation of all things from this time henceforth.

Pastor  ARNOLD N. VALLEJO

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY Sunday School · 8:30 AM Morning Service · 10 AM Discipleship · 2:30 PM Group Fellowship · 3 PM Afternoon Service · 5 PM	Doctrine Class · 5:45 PM Prayer Meeting · 6:45 PM
MONDAY BYSC Soulwinning · 5:30 PM	THURSDAY Soulwinning · 6:30 PM
TUESDAY BYSC Bible Study · 5:30 PM	FRIDAY Orchestra Lesson · 5:00 PM Orchestra Practice · 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY BYSC Dawn Prayer · 5:30 AM	SATURDAY Whole Day Area Visitation & Soulwinning · 8:30 AM Choir · 3:00 PM ·

**TITLE: ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN PROMOTING
SPIRITUALITY IN THE WORK OF THE LORD**

(Part 4)

TEXT: I CORINTHIANS 9:1-27

MEMORY VERSE: PROVERBS 25:28

I. LET EACH OF US ALWAYS ABOUND IN PROMOTING SPIRITUALITY OF THE LORD'S WORK BY NOT INSISTING OUR GOD-GIVEN AND POWERS.

- A. The world has taught us to fight for our rights but our text in verse 12 shows us another view. It reads in part thus: "If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this _____."
- B. As preacher of the gospel, Paul reminds the Corinthian Church in verse 13 his inherent _____ and power. He reiterated this in verse 14, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."
- C. Nonetheless, Paul maintained in verse 15, "But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me..."
- D. This is a great example of _____ indeed. A person with power and authority could easily subdue or control a less powerful person. But here, Paul with much power and authority given by God chose not to use such. This stance is indeed Christlike. (Phil. 2:5-8).
- E. In the earthly life of the Saviour, there were so many instances where He could have used His power but chose not to. When _____ by the Devil to turn the stone to bread to satisfy His need at that time retorted that there is much more needful to man - food for the soul, the Word of God. While on the Cross He could have come down but He refused because he wanted to save man.
- F. As believers of Christ, each of us must indeed learn to _____ ourselves from insisting on our rights and authority.
1. A case in point is in I Cor. 6 where Paul discusses brethren going to the unsaved to settle their disputes. (I Cor 6:7-8).
 2. Another earlier case is recorded in (Matt. 17:24-27).
 3. Two other cases are described in Rom. 14:1-8 - the issue on eating herbs as against eating all kinds and the issue on observing special days as against everyday alike. Here Paul encourages each to still receive each other without "doubtful disputations." Each must not despise or judge one another. Why? - because God hath received each as they are. He wrote further, "He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth

not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."

- G. Moreover, exercising temperance is not merely to maintain peace among brethren but Paul in our text says, "... lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ." This is the noble motive of self-restraint - for the salvation of man. Each of us must then be willing to subdue ourselves to give way to the gospel. This is the reason why we say, **THE MAIN THING IN THE CHURCH IS SOUL WINNING.**

II. LET EACH OF US ALWAYS ABOUND IN PROMOTING SPIRITUALITY OF THE LORD'S WORK BY FAITHFULLY EXERCISING OUR GOD-GIVEN _____.

- A. _____ is shown in our faithful unper-
turbed and continuous service in our God-called ministries. By patiently carrying out our duties and responsibilities in our ministries we show temperance, self-restraint or self-control in the midst of numerous challenges that pose to disrupt our services.
- B. Our text provides each of us with _____ heavenly reasons to do so.
1. First, in verse 16 we read thus: "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" Necessity is one of these. The term means "that which must be and cannot be otherwise, or the cause of that which cannot be otherwise." By withholding one's act on what is necessary, a precious life or a bright future is jeopardized. If a need is not met, then destruction is inevitable. When every minister values the effect of inaction on the lives of many and drives each one to keep ministering, then this is temperance at its best! Moreover, necessity refers to irresistible power or compulsive force which is either physical or moral. If every minister (or every church member) considers the Church and its ministries as authored or crafted by the **ALL-KNOWING, ALL-POWERFUL, EVERY-WHERE PRESENT UNCHANGING GOD** then every service and ministry is expected to be well-attended and fully supported. These could only become possible when each of us exercise Bible temperance!
 2. Second reason is the matter of how we value commitment. Verse 17 of our text reads, "For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me." The term Paul used here is an act described as "sending to prison or putting into prison." Such an act

guarantees that the offender is secured! When each of us treats the Church and the ministries where each of us are involved as our individual commitments, each will certainly fulfill with gusto his/her ministry. This becomes possible only when each of us learns to practice temperance!

3. Commitment is the act of referring or entrusting to a person or group of persons a charge or a mission and subsequently accepting the same! Our text here specifically mentions our commitment to the Gospel of Christ. Hence, when our will starts to drift away from teaching and preaching the Gospel, each of us must keep our will subjugated. Indeed, temperance will keep each of us in the right tract! In order for us to fulfill God's command, we must practice temperance! Psalm 37:4 reveals that if each of us DELIGHT OURSELVES IN THE LORD, "...he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." But there would be no rightful and godly desires without temperance.
4. Third reason is reflected in verse 18 of our text, "What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel." Our appreciation of our eternal rewards will keep each of us in godly temperance. Temperance is nurtured by and in the things of God. Col. 3:1 also declares, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

C. Our _____ is averse to heavenly things but our quickened spirit pants for spiritual and eternal things. Many good Christians are fooled by the world into thinking that they do not need the Church, the man of God, the word of God, and His will in every aspect of their lives. They further think that licentious living is profitable and that a life of discipline is curtailing one's freedom and development. These indeed are not true. On the other hand, obedient and faithful Bible students, church workers, missionaries, preachers and pastors testify of the great value of the work, the will, and the word of God upon their lives. Obedience and discipline are indeed the application of temperance.

III. LET EACH OF US ALWAYS ABOUND IN PROMOTING SPIRITUALITY OF THE LORD'S WORK BY OUR FERVENT STRIVING TO _____.

- A. The _____ once delivered to us is not rooted in mediocrity but in excellence. (II Pet. 1:1). It is faith above all faiths. It is the faith that is authored and finished by God Himself as Heb. 12:2 records.
- B. Our faith indeed is _____ as our text in verses 25-27 also expresses. The

term mastery in our text literally means superiority in competition or preeminence which guarantees sure victory. Other terms to describe this word include eminent skill and superior dexterity, the attainment of which may be unpleasant and cumbered with difficulties. As our text further reveals that a person bent on mastery has to give his best shot and fight, "not as one that beateth the air..." but keep himself under rigid self-discipline. This is indeed an exercise of temperance!

- C. In striving for _____, each must be built upon the word of God. The greatest foundation of temperance is the word of God! (Psalm 119:16). We cannot have genuine temperance without God's counsel upon our lives. With temperance that is God-based, we can accept with grace the hurting realities of frustrations, failures, mistakes and disappointments, without blaming others. The word of God will take care of the sudden "outbursts" of deadly emotional outbreaks.
 - D. Moreover, the Word is our _____ and we must indeed know well how to use it. The Devil and his cohorts tempt us by using God's word, too. Hence, we patiently study His word so we could rightly divide the Word of truth. We should not remain babe in the word.
 - E. In striving for mastery each of us must be fully focused on the _____ of God. Each must give our whole heart, mind, time, and treasure for the work of God – the great commission. By being given to preaching and teaching the Gospel of Christ we practice temperance. Soul Winning and discipleship are never an easy task. These require full time work, meaning our best efforts and sacrifices are demanded. The more temperate each of us becomes the greater work is accomplished. (Prov. 14:4). There is too much work and labour going on in the Lord's work but all of those things will surely strengthen our temperance for Him.
 - F. Striving for mastery demands that each must be established by the _____ of God. (I Thes. 3:2). Timothy was sent by the Church through Apostle Paul who was also in much afflictions because of the Gospel of Christ. Though he was likewise persecuted, Timothy was able to establish others in their faith in the Lord because he loved God's will over and above his comfort. He was able to temper his actions because he valued God's will. The same is true to us, believers. If we learn to love the will of God in our lives, we will also learn to control our spirits in the midst of oppositions and unpleasant events. Temperance indeed is much needed in accomplishing His will upon our lives.
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Yield Not to Temptation

Yield not to temptation,
for yielding is sin;
Each victory will help you,
some other to win;
Fight manfully onward,
Dark passions subdue;
Look ever to Jesus,
He'll carry you through.

**Ask the Saviour to help you,
Comfort, strengthen, and keep you;
He is willing to aid you,
He will carry you through.**

Shun evil companions,
Bad language dis-dain;
God's name hold in reverence,
Nor take it in vain;
Be thoughtful and earnest,
Kind-hearted and true;
Look ever to Jesus,
He'll carry you through.

To him that o'ercometh,
God-given a crown;
Thro' faith we will conquer,
Though often cast down;
He who is our Saviour,
Our strength will renew;
Look ever to Jesus,
He'll carry you through.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM	720	FTV	60
Sunday PM	216	Baptism	22
Prayer Mtg	274		

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Preaching DVDs are available at Sceptre Publication & Bookstore

2022 CHURCH CALENDAR

April 2022

17	Sceptre College 2nd Sem Orientation
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18	Sceptre College Start of classes
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May 2022

3	Soul Winning Conference CBBC SP
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8	Mother's Sunday
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June 2022

12	Filipino Sunday
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19	Fathers' Sunday
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July 2022

8	CBBA LB Year-End Recognition
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17	CBBA LB Commencement Exercises
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BIBLE READING SCHEDULE Day 259-265

Mon 18-APR Jo. 18:1-18; 2 Chro. 26; Psalm 83

Tue 19-APR Jo. 18:19-38; 2 Chro. 27-28; Psalm 84

Wed 20-APR Jo. 18:38-19:16; 2 Chro. 29; Psalm 85

Thu 21-APR Jo. 19:16-42; 2 Chro. 30; Psalm 86

Fri 22-APR Jo. 20:1-18; 2 Chro. 31; Psalm 87

Sat 23-APR Jo. 20:19-31; 2 Chro. 32; Psalm 88

Sun 24-APR Jo. 21; 2 Chro. 33; Psalm 89:1-18