

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is temperance? What all does it include?
2. What are dangers in this life, of intemperance? In the life hereafter? Discuss.
3. Why was the Apostle Paul concerned with temperance in 1 Corinthians 9:22-27?
4. Do you think the moderate use of alcoholic beverages by a believer in this country today can hinder his Christian testimony? Discuss.

SUMMARY:

The power to live a temperate, God-regulated life is given by the Holy Spirit. Temperance, or self-control is among the nine-fold fruit of the Holy Spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23.

No one, however, not even the believer, is coerced or forced to do anything. God gives us instruction in His Word; and He gives us power through the Holy Spirit. It remains for the believer, however, to choose to exercise the great resources that are his.

It is real wisdom—and vitally important for the born-again child of God—to study the scripture and to seek out God's perfect will. Then, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can live a disciplined, regulated life that honors God. This is real wisdom and happiness.

NOTES:

[SoF:11] We believe that we should speak the truth, and should not swear, for Christ said : "Swear not at all; but let your communication be Yea, Yea; and Nay, Nay."

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

September 10, 2017

Third Quarter

THE WISDOM OF TEMPERANCE

LESSON TEXT: *Proverbs 23:1-35*

LESSON SETTING: Probably at Jerusalem

TIME: Approximately 980 B.C., during the reign of King Solomon.

- I. THE CASE FOR TEMPERANCE.** Proverbs 23:1-19
 - A. Eating (vs. 1-3, 6-8) Daniel 1:8; Romans 14:15-17
 - B. Seeking Wealth (vs. 4-5, 10-11) Proverbs 28:20; 1 Timothy 6:9-10
 - C. Speaking (vs. 9, 15, 16) [SoF:11] Ephesians 5:4, 19, 20; James 3:2, 6
 - D. Desires (vs. 12, 17-19) 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; 10:6
- II. THE CASE AGAINST INTEMPERANCE.** Proverbs 23:20-31
 - A. Drunkenness (vs. 20-26, 29-31) Proverbs 20:1; 31:4-5; Ephesians 5:18
 - B. Gluttony (vs. 20-21) Romans 13:13
 - C. Sexual Immorality (vs. 27-28) 1 Corinthians 6:9, 18; Ephesians 5:3, 5
- III. THE RESULTS OF INTEMPERANCE.** Proverbs 23:32-35
 - A. Drunkenness (vs. 31-35) Romans 14:19, 21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
 - B. Immorality. 1 Corinthians 3:17; 6:18

GOLDEN TEXT: EVERY MAN THAT STRIVETH FOR THE MASTERY IS TEMPERATE IN ALL THINGS.
1 Corinthians 9:25

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 1 Kings 10 :14 through 11:13

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Deuteronomy 17:16-17;
2 Timothy 2:6-26;
Hebrews 10:26-39

QUARTERLY THEME: Life and Writings of Solomon

TOPIC: SOLOMON'S FOLLY

INTRODUCTION:

Our lesson deals with the great wealth of Solomon. Gold was in such abundance that silver was no longer worth anything (vs. 21) and was made as stones (vs. 27). Solomon exceeded all other kings for wealth and wisdom.

Then came a sad note! BUT... That three letter word—BUT! But King Solomon loved many strange women. These were women who God had said the children of Israel should not associate with (Chapter 11:2). They turned his heart from God to their idol gods. God became angry with Solomon because his heart had been turned (Chapter 11:9).

It is just as awesome a thing for us today to take lightly our calling in Christ Jesus. We are living in a world that would demand so much of our time, if we permit it—in civic and social affairs, in business and recreation—that we have very little time left for God. Have we really “surrendered all” and have we “laid our all on the altar?” The devil will so subtly lead us into the things that crowd God out of our lives that we may not realize it until it is too late. May we heed Jesus’ warnings, “Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation.” (Matthew 26:41) “What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch.” (Mark 13:37)

CENTRAL TRUTH: God desires first place in our lives.

GOLDEN TEXT: *NO MAN CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS; FOR EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR ELSE HE WILL HOLD TO THE ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER.*

Matthew 6:24

Solomon started out his reign as king over Israel as a humble, obedient, God-fearing man, not seeking wealth or fame but only wisdom. God answered his prayer for wisdom and gave him fame and fortune too. As time passed fame and fortune changed Solomon and his heart became set on his material possessions and the gods of his wives instead of having a continuing love for God.

We today can learn a lesson from this. Our hearts were filled with love for God. We would give up anything to please Him and serve Him. How is it with us today? Do we still have this kind of love for God or have other things become quite important to us? Do we love possessions, a place of prominence, the pleasures of recreation, or many other things? These things are of the world and we have to be constantly on guard against their subtle influences for they will crowd God out of our lives much as they did with Solomon. When these things take over we find all kinds of excuses why we don't have to do this, or refrain from doing that, to please God. When a person can justify all manner of things contrary to God's Word Satan then has begun his evil work. BEWARE.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF September 11 – 17

- M. The Law Solomon Broke. Exodus 34:10-17
- T. *Solomon's Riches. 1 Kings 10:14-23
- W. *Solomon's Prosperity. 1 Kings 10:24-29
- T. *Solomon's Failure. 1 Kings 11:1-13
- F. Solomon's Adversaries. 1 Kings 11:14-28
- S. Ahijah's Prophecy. 1 Kings 11:29-43
- S. Sowing and Reaping. Galatians 6:1-10

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