**Lemoore church of Christ**

**Dec. 13, 2020**

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Self Control by Bill Hall

What is the value of self-control? Self-control is that which enables us to hold our tongues when we are tempted to viciously put someone in his place once and for all; or when we know a juicy bit of gossip that would be entertaining to the group and would turn us into the "life of the party"; or when an occasion almost demands that we betray a confidence that must not be betrayed under any circumstances.

Self-control is that which enables us to control our passions when another is provoking us to anger; that keeps the clinched fists in the pockets when the agitator is only half our size; that keeps the lips sealed when another is railing and swearing at us. Self-control is that which enables us to be like our Lord "who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (I Peter 2:23).

Self-control is that which enables us to maintain purity of heart and to thrust out evil thoughts before they can take root; that enables us to place the best possible construction on another person's actions when unproven rumors could easily destroy our confidence in him; that helps us to maintain a cheerful disposition when everything around us has turned sour. Self-control is that which enables us to love the unlovable and to hate that which the world loves.

Self-control is that which enables us to rule our appetites; to say "no" when our lusts would lead us to sin or when that which is harmful to our health is placed before us. Self-control is that which enables the smoker to put down his cigarettes and the alcoholic to put down his drink and never return to it. Self-control is that which enables us to rule rather than to be enslaved.

The Bible does not glorify the indifferent and impassive. It is not our goal to be uncaring. To be like Paul, we must be able to have our spirit stirred within us when we are surrounded by evil (Acts 17:16). To be like our Lord, we must sometimes feel anger when surrounded by hypocritical self-righteousness (Mark 3:5); we must even react with occasional outbursts of goodness on occasions, as when the Lord cleansed the temple (John 2:13-17). But all such outbursts must be tempered with self-control, that in our anger we "do not sin" (Ephesians 4:26). God does not view our uncontrolled actions with amusement. Our temper tantrums and harsh, unbridled words are soul threatening, a potential bar to the abundant entrance into the Lord's everlasting kingdom (II Peter 1:5-11). We must not minimize the danger. We must not surrender to this evil.

What is the value of self-control? It is one of the qualities that enable us to go to heaven. The possessor of it is rich indeed.

**Five Minutes with God: This week:**

Sunday Day 348 John 20:1-13

Monday Day 349 Matthew 28:9-15

Tuesday Day 350 Mark 16:9-13

Wednesday Day 351 John 20:14-18

Thursday Day 352 Luke 24:13-27

Friday Day 353 Luke 24:28-35

Saturday Day 354 Luke 24:36-43

**Prayer List:**

Ann Banks, Lorie Witt’s mother home now

Jim, Whitney’s son, acute ocular myasthenia gravis has been hospitalized with COVI

Darlene Wilson had an abnormal test result and will be having further procedures.

John Moore is now home

Sandy, friend of Cheryl Crain, had surgery

Gary Cole recovering from knee replacement

Whitney Broaddus has been ill

Gary Curtis recovering from eye surgery

Mike Souza recovering from back surgery

Eula Rhoads

Alice’s sister, Ruth, recovering from surgery

Betty Standridge problems with feet/legs

Kerri Hodgson’s brother Don hypothermia

Megan, Garth’s Brother-in-law’s niece, cancer

Michael Davis, from Springville is very ill.

Kim Cargill, Stephanie Tischmacher’s stepmom

Doug Standridge

Red and Marjory Cooper

Janet Billington radiation for liver cancer

Meryl Wamhoff, friend of Lisa Butts, has been declared free of cancer, but his chemo will continue unitl Jan 5th His family is thankful for your prayers.

Gary Radcliff, Garth’s father, started chemo

Linda Frye, Cancer

Bill Fox, co-worker of Frank Baldwin,

Angie and Tito Cano- Tito on maintenance meds

Casey Case Jr ongoing oncology treatment

Our Mission Work:

* First Responders
* Preachers in Nicaragua
* Agape Village
* Crossover Ministry
* City of Children
* Manuelito’s Children’s Home
* Church of Christ Disaster relief Fund
* World Christian Broadcasting