

Develop that sort of character a true Christian should have. Add to you faith virtue and to virtue knowledge. He wants us to study His Word. He wants us to learn more about the things of God. No nation under heaven ever had the same educational opportunities our country has. Yet our people as a whole do not take advantage of the marvellous opportunities we have. I think the level of understanding, the level of education, the level of interest in culture and in general education is far lower today than it was 50 years ago or 100 years ago. We do not have the great beautiful school buildings then that we have today. We did not have the machinery we have today. We had a thirst for knowledge. We had a desire to get ahead, and enjoy the wonderful things God has put in this world.

God wants us not merely to be good, he wants us to be good for something. He wants us to add to our virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance. This old English word temperance has come in recent years to be specialized, to mean simply not drinking too much liquor. That's not what Peter is talking about here at all. Peter is talking about our whole manner of life. That we be moderate, that we be under control. That we don't fly off the handle. That we don't spend too much time on one thing and neglect other things. He wants us to be well rounded characters able to serve God in different aspects.

Now of course God has given special gifts. There are many people who can do some particular type of Christian work far better than I could ever dream of doing it. Every one of us has particular gifts God wants us to develop those gifts but He doesn't want us exclusively to utilize those gifts. He wants everyone of us to be rounded and to serve Him in whatever opportunity comes our way.

There was a great scholar Martin Luther. He was a professor in the University. There he was giving great lectures on the Bible. He was explaining its meaning to those eager students who came from all over Germany. This was before the beginning of the Reformation. The Head of the school said to Luther one day, "Martin, I want you to preach after next in the castle church." Luther had never preached before. He had taught a good deal. But Martin said, I can't preach! This man knew Martin's ability far better than Martin did, and he said, "I want you to preach there, week after next." Martin said, I can't. But I want you to preach. Martin said, I'd die. Oh he says, Die then! We may feel that to teach a S.S. Class, that to join in the singing to the best of our ability and make a joyful ~~XXXX~~ noise to the Lord, that to help some young people in the church work and to call, etc. is something we just can't stand to do. We have no ability and we would die if we did. But God wants us to be diligent and be ready to accept every type of way in which we can serve the Lord. Be always ready to do a little of every type, but to develop the particular gift that He gives to each one of us.

So he says, to knowledge temperance and to temperance patience. Now there is a world which in old English was a much broader term than it is today. Patience covers two different aspects in Old English ~~xxxx~~ when the KJV was given. Today it has narrowed to one. Speaking of a person who is patient who puts up with all kinds of things, who does not get in too much hurry, whom comes to the corner and the light goes red and he's in a hurry and does not get all excited and rattled