

Are you a “Left-Knobber” or a “Right Knobber”

1



READ SLIDE

-- There are many aspects of daily life as a follower of Christ that can be thought of this way.

TR: But, today we are focused on . . .

THE TWO KNOBS OF SELF-CONTROL

2



... the two knobs of self-control.

-- Are you a one or two knobber when it comes to self-control?

TR: Almost all of us realize the importance of self-control in the daily choices of life.

Proverbs 25:28

A man without self-control
is like a city broken into
and left without walls.

ESV

3

As the proverbs say . . . READ SLIDE

-- Without solid self-control we are defenseless against the attacks of the world, Satan, and even our old natures.

TR: One of the ways the cracks in the cement are obvious is seen in the way we . . .

“A Servant and HIS Money”

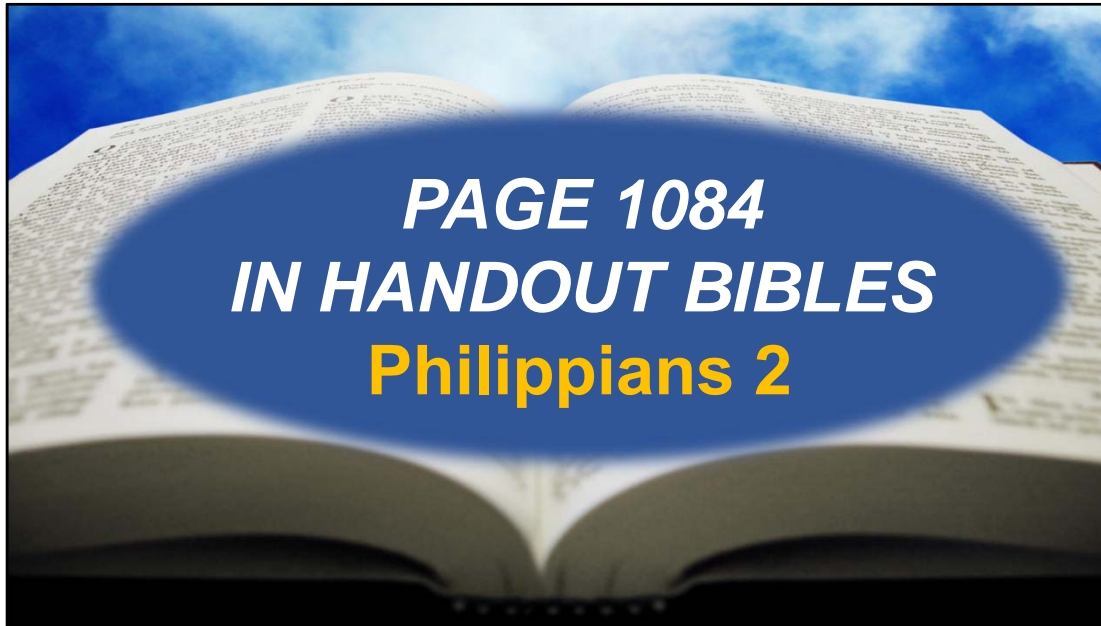
. . . handle the money God entrusted to us to manage.

-- It is HIS money and we are HIS servants.

-- In order to make the right practical and even daily choices, we need to add to the contentment we talked about last week . . .

-- . . . and add self-control.

TR: As we ponder whether we are left-knobbers, right-knobbers or two-knobber people . . . I want to have us open our Bibles . . .

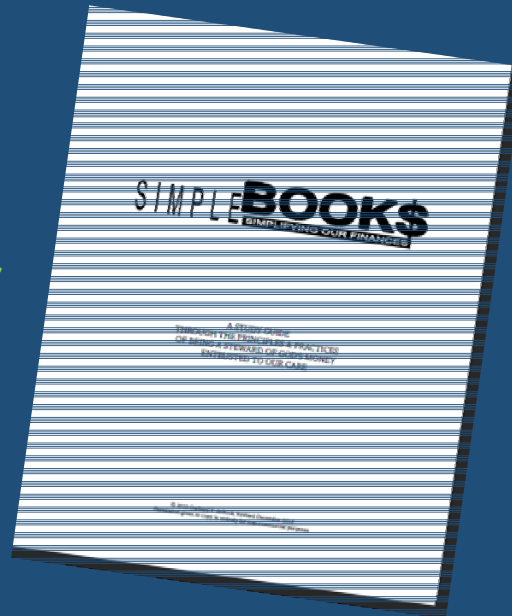


5

- ... beginning in Philippians 2
- Handout Bibles
- sermon notes

TR: Our study today is in addition to . . .

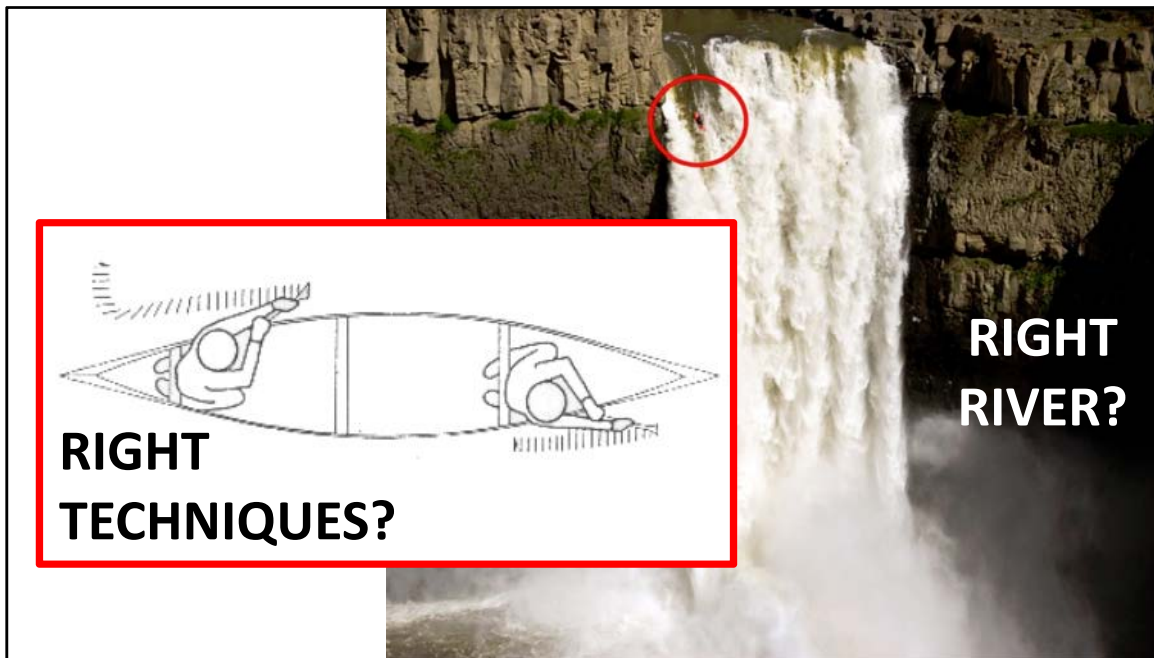
**BE SURE TO DO
YOUR OWN
COMPLETE STUDY
THROUGH THE
STUDY GUIDE**



6

... the more comprehensive self-study that we've all been challenged to do on our own or with our families or small groups.

TR: As we look at both the principles and practices of being good stewards of God's money ...



. . . we are seeking to make sure we have the right paddling techniques AND that we are on the right river . . . to use Randy Alcorn's illustration.

-- There are lots of paddling techniques when it comes to money and possessions . . .

-- But being able to do a great J-stroke or C-stroke doesn't really matter much if the river you are on ends up sending you over the falls, does it?

TR: In our workbooks we look at a number of practical choices, paddling techniques, if you will.

**Record-Keeping & Budgeting
Working & Sabbath-keeping**

8



**Insurance
Savings
Retirement
Investing
Inheritances**



READ SLIDE

-- Interestingly, you and I can easily be either left-knobbers or right-knobbers when it comes to these choices.

TR: Such one-knob solutions push us toward the extremes . . . away from self-control.

WE NEED SELF-CONTROL . . .

IN OUR NOTES

9

But it is self-evident that we NEED self-control

TR: Without self-control we end up making bad choices again and again . . .

IGNORE.....Record-Keeping & Budgeting...OBSESS
LAZY.....Working & Sabbath-keeping.....DRIVEN
BETTER NOT DIE.....Insurance...BETTER OFF DEAD
SQUANDER.....Savings.....HOARD
SPARTAN.....Retirement.....INDULGENT
GET RICH QUICK.....Investing.....BE INVINCIBLE
RESENTMENTS.....Inheritances.....TEMPTATIONS

10

We end up . . . READ SLIDE

-- How can we make wiser choices in practical areas like these?

TR: We can explore the heart of those choices by thinking back to our childhoods and a toy that even today's college students recognize . . .



11

... the Etch A Sketch.

-- The two knobs controlled either the horizontal, left to right movement of the etching tool . . .

-- OR the vertical, up and down movement.

TR: It is not hard to draw a straight line horizontally or vertically, but . . .



12

... the challenge is drawing a diagonal line.

-- If the challenge were given to start in the lower left corner and get to the upper right corner ...

TR: ... is that possible for a one-knobber person?



13

Of course it is not.

- If we are left-knobber people we draw a great horizontal line but we can't get up to the level we need.**
- And the right-knobber can get vertical but can't move over.**
- Both one-knobber people can't get to the goal.**

TR: If we translate this to the issue of self-control, what we need to make good choices in all those practical areas we just mentioned . . .



14

... we see that left-knobbbers tend to say ... "God helps those who help themselves"

-- Right-knobbbers say ... "Let go and let God"

-- I want us to understand today that while all of us have a bias toward one of these knobs, it is only the two-knobbbers that actually grow in biblical self-control.

TR: We know we need self-control, in many areas of life but today focused on finances ...

**WE NEED SELF-CONTROL . . .
BUT MOST OF US TEND TO BE "ONE-
KNOBBERS."**

IN OUR NOTES

15

. . . but most of us tend to be one-knobbers.

-- We lean toward saying "let go and let God" OR "God helps those who help themselves"

TR: But the Bible teaches . . .

WE NEED SELF-CONTROL . . .

BUT MOST OF US TEND TO BE “ONE-KNOBBERS.”

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT WE NEED TO BE “TWO-KNOBBERS,” ESPECIALLY IN LEARNING SELF-CONTROL

IN OUR NOTES

16

. . . READ SLIDE

TR: The general principle is taught powerfully in Philippians 2 . . .

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling, **for it is God who works in you**, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

17



From Philippians 2 . . . READ SLIDE

-- The left knob . . . work out your own salvation

-- The right knob . . . for it is God who works in you

TR: Let's look more specifically with regard to how the two knobs work in the area of self-control . . .

Titus 2:11-12 page 1100

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and **to live self-controlled**, upright, and godly lives in the present age,



18

In Titus 2 we read . . . READ SLIDE

-- So, what has appeared? God's grace in Christ

TR: Verse 13 continues . . .

Titus 2:13-14

waiting for our blessed hope, **the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

19

READ SLIDE

-- What are we waiting to appear? The glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

-- This is all of God . . .

TR: BUT we also read that there is more than just let go and let God . . .

Titus 2:11-12

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **training us** to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and **to live self-controlled**, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

20



ESV

... looking back we see that the grace of God has appeared ... training us ... implying that we need to be trained by this grace that has appeared ...

-- AND the glory that will appear.

-- We must take hold of our responsibility and renounce ungodliness and worldly passions AND choose to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives.

-- The vertical knob folks will focus on what God has and will do.

-- The horizontal knob people will key into what we are to do.

-- But the text seems to say ... take hold of both knobs!

TR: Or consider the teaching in Galatians 5 ...

Galatians 5:22-25 page 1078

But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, **self-control**; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, **let us also keep in step with the Spirit.**

21



READ SLIDE

- So where does self-control come from? It is a fruit of the Spirit. The type of self-control God wants us to have only comes from God the Spirit.
- So it is all about the vertical knob, right?
- NO . . . because we are commanded to use the horizontal knob to “keep in step with the Spirit.”
- The grammarians among us will understand that the indicative is inseparable from the imperative. What God did and what we are to do – the diagonal line on our etch a sketch.

TR: A passage that God has used in my life again and again is . . .

2 Timothy 1:6-7 page 1097

For this reason I remind you **to fan into flame** the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **for God gave us** a spirit not of fear but of power and love and **self-control**.

22

... 2 Timothy 1 ... READ SLIDE

-- "fan into flame" is our responsibility

-- "for God gave us" is what God has done through His sovereign grace.

TR: This passage stirs me ...



23

. . . by reminding me that I have at least one spiritual gift given to me, affirmed by the church many years ago . . .
-- AND that He gave me a spirit, not of fear but of POWER, LOVE, SELF-CONTROL
-- AND YET I need to keep fanning it into flame.

TR: One more example from Scripture . . .

2 Peter 1:3-4 page 1120

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that in the world because of sinful desire.

24

From Peter's second letter . . . READ SLIDE

- Has God give us what we need?**
- This is strongly the vertical knob.**

TR: But then verse five says . . .

2 Peter 1:5-7

For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with **self-control**, and **self-control** with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

25



READ SLIDE

- “make every effort” – that’s horizontal if I’ve ever seen it!
- Self-control . . . is tied to our understanding that the grace of God has appeared and His glory will appear . . .
- self-control . . . is part of the fruit of the Spirit living within us after we come to faith in Christ . . .
- self-control . . . is a gift of God, along with love and power . . .
- AND YET . . . we must make every effort along this escalator of spiritual growth.

TR: Why must we take hold of both knobs? . . .

2 Peter 1:8-9

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, **they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

26



READ SLIDE

TR: Peter has no difficulty in telling us to take hold of both knobs, as the next two verses show us . . .

2 Peter 1:10-11

Therefore, brothers, **be all the more diligent** to confirm your **calling and election**, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

27

READ SLIDE

- God calls us and elects us
- We must be all the more diligent to confirm this
- He holds on to us . . . but we must practice these qualities so that we will never fall.

TR: Think back one more time on these four passages . . .

- **GRACE APPEARED AND WE WAIT FOR THE GLORY OF CHRIST'S COMING**
- **SPIRIT GIVEN TO US WHO PROVIDES HIS FRUIT**
- **SPIRIT OF POWER, LOVE, AND SELF-CONTROL**
- **ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS**



The vertical knob was seen in . . . READ SLIDE

TR: But the horizontal knob when we were challenged to . . .

- **BE TRAINED**
- **WALK IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT**
- **FAN INTO FLAME**
- **MAKE EVERY EFFORT**

29



... READ SLIDE

TR: So, what is your bias?



30

**Let go and let God OR God helps those who help themselves?
Is it all up to God and you can be passive? OR is it all up to you?**

TR: What the challenge is today is . . .

WE **NEED** SELF-CONTROL . . .

BUT MOST OF US TEND TO BE **"ONE-KNOBBERS."**

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT WE NEED TO BE **"TWO-KNOBBERS,"** ESPECIALLY IN LEARNING SELF-CONTROL

SO, WE MUST BE WILLING TO ADMIT OUR **BIAS** AND TAKE HOLD OF **BOTH** "KNOBS," BECOMING SOBER-MINDED AND SELF-CONTROLLED.

IN OUR NOTES

31

. . . READ SLIDE

TR: SO . . .



32

... READ SLIDE

TR: and then ...



... READ SLIDE

TR: I don't think we can imagine what is possible if we grab both ...



34

**Now, most of us won't be great artists at this,
-- but we can make our progress evident to all.**

TR: For most of us, this is more like what our Etch-A-Sketch drawings will look like . . .



35

... struggling with the diagonals but making our way to the finish.

TR: When we grab hold of both knobs of self-control we can make those daily choices with so much more wisdom ...

IGNORE.....RECORD-KEEPING & BUDGETING.....OBSESS
 LAZY.....WORK.....BE DILIGENT.....DRIVEN
 BETTER NOT DIE.....PROVIDE.....BETTER OFF DEAD
 SQUANDER.....SAVE.....HOARD
 SPARTAN.....BE AVAILABLE.....INDULGENT
 GET RICH QUICK.....BE INTENTIONAL.....BE INVINCIBLE
 RESENTMENTS.....BE WISE.....TEMPTATIONS

We can engage in record-keeping and budgeting, neither ignoring it or obsessing over it.

-- We can be diligent in our work without laziness or drivenness.

-- We can provide for our families protection . . . we can save without hoarding . . .

-- We can make retirement a time to be available to do the Lord's work rather than a time of self-indulgence.

TR: All of these choices are not just a matter of paddling techniques . . . we must be on the right river.



**GOD HIMSELF IS THE
SPRING OF WATER THAT
WILL NEVER RUN DRY**



Even as we saw last week that our contentment comes from God who is Himself the spring of living water that never runs dry . . .

-- so we can resist the cistern-salesperson.

-- We can have self-control because we take hold of that which God has given us.

-- Like salvation, it is a gift from God . . . BUT we must take and open it.

TR: There is an urgency to learning self-control because of the core principle taught in Luke 12

Luke 12:35-37 page 966

"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and **be like men who are waiting for their master** to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

ESV

38

Here Jesus says . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 38 . . .

Luke 12:38-40

If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

ESV

39

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 41 . . .

Luke 12:41-43

Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?" And the Lord said, "**Who then is the faithful and wise manager**, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? **Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.**

ESV

40

READ SLIDE

- We are the managers . . . given resources by the Master to manage.
- We are the people who must have the self-control to remain dressed for action, with our lamps burning as we look to the second coming of Jesus.

TR: Verse 44 . . .

Luke 12:44-46

Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.

ESV

41

We are the ones who have self-control now because of the hope of the reward then . . . READ SLIDE

-- The hope of reward and the consequences of lost self-control!

TR: Finally, verse 47 . . .

Luke 12:47-48

And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. **Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.**

ESV

42

READ SLIDE

- This last verse always hits me so hard.
- I have been given much in the area of finances and possessions.
- I have been given much in terms of education, experience. Spiritual gifts and talents.
- I have been given much in the sense of the spirit of power, love and self-control . . .
- **SO THEREFORE** much will be required of me.

TR: I know I won't get this two-knob thing perfect . . .

**TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN,
MUCH WILL BE REQUIRED . . .
SO, WE MUST MAKE **PROGRESS** IN THIS,
EVEN IF WE DON'T GET IT PERFECT**

. . . But . . . READ SLIDE

TR: It's not . . .



. . . open our hands in inability

-- OR clench our hands in fear of not doing enough

-- BUT taking hold of God's hand in relationship . . . the beautiful mystery of a daily relationship with God

-- . . . fully dependent on His provision of all we need for life and godliness . . .

-- AND fully determined to make every effort through the Spirit given to us!