

SERMON SERIES: The Best Summer Ever

SPEAKER: Tim Snyder

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Sermon Title

“Self-Control”

Introduction

This week we continued our series called Best Summer Ever. During this series, we will explore the passage of 2 Peter 1:5-8 to help us close the gap between who we are now and who Christ is calling us to be. This week’s focus is *Self-Control*. When we practice self-control, we put aside our desires to seek out and fulfill God’s purpose for our lives.

- What are the simple things in your life that you love to have control over? (i.e. radio station, volume level, what is on the TV, temperature in the house, etc.)

Seek the Word

- In Paul’s letter to Titus, he encouraged Titus to teach and instruct based on sound doctrine, and provided him with specific areas in which that needs to be accomplished. Read Titus 2:1-8, and make note of the different groups of people that Paul is saying need to be taught self-control. What stands out to you about these groups, both individually and as a whole?
- Paul also gives Titus a reason for teaching sound doctrine and self-control. Read Titus 2:11-12. Think and talk about what connections you see between the salvation offered by Jesus and our call to be self-controlled people.

Go Deeper

We all have areas of our lives in which self-control is a struggle. It could be with some substance, maybe a relationship, and it might even be in your faith. Proverbs 25:28 tells us “A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.” What are the areas in your life that your self-control has left you vulnerable to attack— where the enemy has been able to destroy your walls? Take some time to ask God for strength in your self-control, and for renewal of your security in him.

Talk About It

- Tim gave us 2 key thoughts on why we should live self-controlled lives.
 1. Jesus redeemed us from all wickedness. He paid the ultimate price for our lives by dying for you and me. There is no greater love or action. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have been redeemed.

2. You are His. You have been set free from the bondage of sin and are made pure, clean from your past.
- How often do you find yourself thinking about the sacrifice and love of Jesus, in moments where your self-control is tested? What would those areas of your life look like if you saw those moments through the lens of the love of Jesus?
 - It is easy to just say a hypothetical, but actually acknowledging the change that can occur can help you implement that into your life and see those fruits you desperately crave.

Wrap Up

Reminder: Jesus calls us to a life of purpose and self-control. 2 Peter tells us that self-control, working in conjunction with our faith, will keep us from being ineffective and unproductive. Our ability and desire to deny ourselves and follow the will of God will strengthen our faith and make us more complete in the image of God.

Challenge: Tim gave us two important action steps, in response to this call for self-control.

1. Deny Yourself. Give up your thoughts, actions, words, intentions that are not pure and holy and right.
 - a. Make a list of those things in your life that you can control and those things that are out of your control. Address the things you can control and begin implementing self-denial in those areas. Ultimately, our choices are the evidence and stronghold of our self-control.
2. Give God Control. All that he asks of us is to Follow Him. Have you asked God what he wants for your life lately? Take some time to ask God for His will to be evident.

Ultimately, our self-control is about trusting God. With our relationships, our desires, our addictions, our finances, and our lives. There are plenty of areas in which we all fall short when it comes to self control. But through intentional choices and trust in God, we can begin to live more complete lives that emulate Christ' call in Matthew 16:24-25

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”