**Things you need – Self – control**

**2 Pet. 1: 6 – in your knowledge, self – control**…

**Worldly self – control**

1 Cor. 9:25 – everyone who competes in the games exercises self – control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable

2 Tim. 2:4 – no soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier

2 Tim. 2:5 – if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules

2 Tim. 2:6 – the hard - working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops

James 5:7 – …the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil

*Worldly self – control focuses on the personal success, excellence, advancement based in fleshly pride, self – confidence, self -preservation*

**The meaning of Christian self – control**

Self – control is the ability to control selfish desires & passions to glorify God & advance the gospel

**Christian self – control is the gift of the new birth & mark of salvation**

Gal. 5:22 -23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self – control; against such things there is no law.

**Christian self – control relies on the power of God & the work of the Holy Spirit**

Eph. 1:19 – what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in heavenly places

Phil 4:13 – I can do all things through Him who strengthens me

**Denial of self is essential for Christian self – control**

Luke 9:23 – if anyone wished to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me

Gal. 5:24 – now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires

1. Denial of self – love – seeking your own things not the things of Christ – Phil.2:21

2 Tim. 3:2 – for men will be lovers of themselves…lovers of money…lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

1. Self - love robs God of the love we owe to Him
2. Self – love focuses on our person & our interests rather than God & His interests
3. Self – love is enamored with its own goodness & giftedness

***He is the best friend to himself who loves himself the least***

1. Denial of self – dependence – I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus My Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ – Phil. 3:8
2. Self – dependence lives assured of personal righteousness
3. Self – dependence leads to hypocrisy
4. Self – dependence congratulates self in good works without humility
5. Self – dependence refuses to trust & wait for God & His work

1. Denial of self – will – we will not have this man to reign over us – Luke 19:14, Ps. 12:4
2. Self – will is the proudest enemy to the Lord Jesus Christ
3. Self – will is the continual battle for the believer – Gal. 5:17, Rom. 7:18
4. Denial of self – seeking they serve not the Lord Jesus Christ but their own belly Rom 16:18
5. Self – seeking places worldly things above spiritual things - James 4:4
6. Denial of self – desires – instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires Tit.2:12
7. Self – desires keep godly desires from growing
8. Self – desires replace God’s desires for us
9. Self – desires lead to ungodly emotions & actions Gal.5: 17 -21
10. Denial of self – assurance – God I thank you that I am not as other men are…Luke 18:11
11. The self – assured never pray
12. The self – assured put their trust in themselves
13. The self – assured lived in arrogant false security – Isa. 47:10

**Death to self is essential for Christian self – control**

1 Cor. 15:31 – …I die daily

Luke 9:23 -24 – …take up your cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it

Rom. 8:13 – for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live

1. Death to selfish ambition – John3:30
2. Death to selfish respect – Matt. 23: 5-7
3. Death to selfish recognition – Matt. 6:1
4. Death to selfish plans – Jer. 18: 11 -12

**Christian self – control prepares for the judgment seat of Christ**

2 Cor. 5:10 – for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad

Acts 24:25 – but as he was discussing righteousness, self – control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you

**Ways to self – denial**

1. Deny yourself by removing your love for the world – Heb. 11:25
2. Deny yourself by seeking to please God first
3. Deny yourself by living by faith – 2 Cor.4:16
4. Deny yourself by remembering how God has cared for you
5. Deny yourself by paying attention to your heart & its condition – Pr. 4:23
6. Deny yourself by avoiding people & things that tempt you to selfishess & sinfulness
7. Deny the desire & avoid the act – 1 Pet. 2:11
8. Remember that selfishness is the reigning sin of the world!
9. Meditate on the self – denial of the Lord Jesus Christ – Phil. 2:7, Heb. 12:2, 1 Cor.8:9
10. Love for God will destroy self – love!
11. There may be going to heaven with suffering but there is no going to heaven without self – denial