

*christmastide*





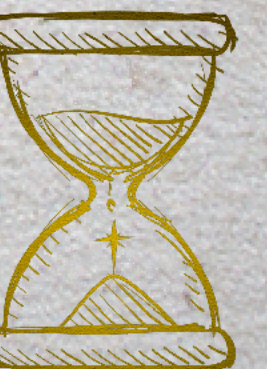




# *Temperance:*

Temperance of character is critical to godliness—being a choice tool in the hand of God to do his good, pleasing and perfect will.

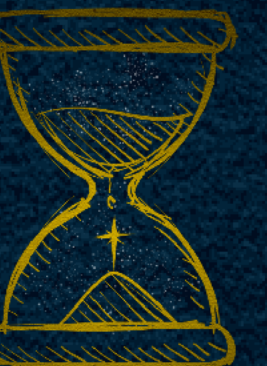
1 Timothy 3:2 – 3, Luke 23:34 – 39





# *1 Timothy 3:2 – 3*

Now the overseer must be **above reproach**,  
the husband of but one wife, **temperate**,  
**self-controlled**, **respectable**, hospitable,  
able to teach, **not given to drunkenness**,  
**not violent but gentle**, **not quarrelsome**, **not**  
**a lover of money.**

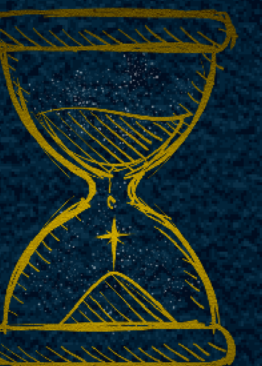




## *Luke 23:34 – 39*

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

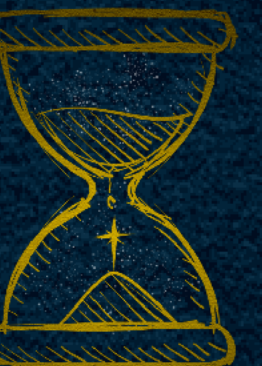
And they **divided up his clothes** by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even **sneered** at him. They said, "He saved others; **let him save himself if he is the Christ of God**, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and **mocked** him...





# *Luke 23:34 – 39*

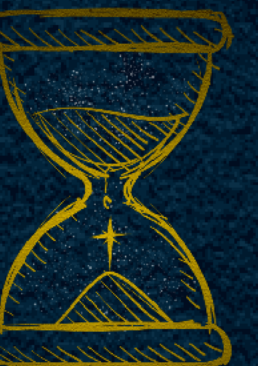
...They offered him **wine vinegar** and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, **save yourself.**" There was a **written notice** above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there **hurled insults at him:** "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"





# *4 tides of anxiety that lead to intemperance:*

- Facing crises and government power
- Facing change in the digital
- Facing the failure of those we trust
- Facing the squeeze of no-win factionalism

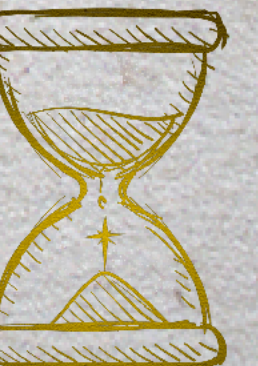




*I. Temperance faces crisis  
and authority with clarity  
and respect.*

**Matthew 22:21**

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."





## *2 very key dangers:*

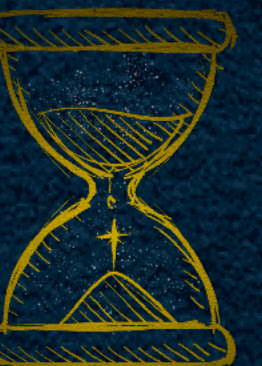
- Empty diplomacy
- Destructive controversy

*1 Timothy 6:3 – 6*

## *2 kinds of unity:*

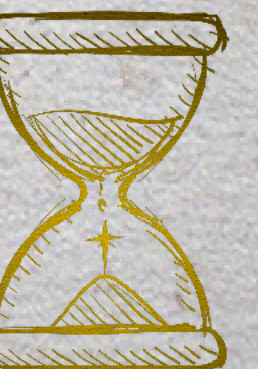
- Narrow and indolent unity: chanting for unity in Christ's name.
- Diverse and active unity: pursue temperance and discernment as virtues of maturity in Christ.

*1 Thessalonians 4:9 –10*





*2. Temperate characters are versatile and durable in change.*

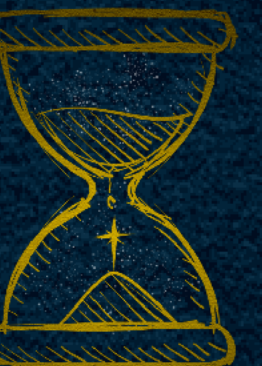




# *Causes of increasing anxiety*

*high and rising annually*

- Anxiety about safety
- "Extrinsic goals" – becoming materialists
- Loss of meaningful life philosophy
- Loneliness and lack of fulfilling relationships
- High use of social media – inferiority and discontent
- Work changes, media overload, cultural fracture

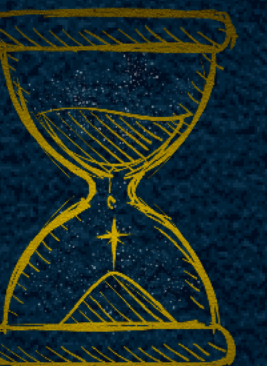




# *To build temperance we need to:*

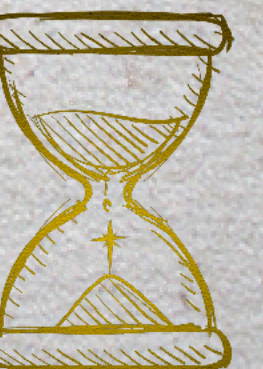
- Face our fear of death
- Reject a materialist purpose
- Embrace God's philosophy of life
- Be made wise in a complex world
- Embrace the fellowship of the family of God
- Trust in God's sovereignty while focusing on our duty amidst overexposure

*This is what faith-forming godliness looks like.*





*3. Tempered character has  
worked out the impurities  
of idolatry.*



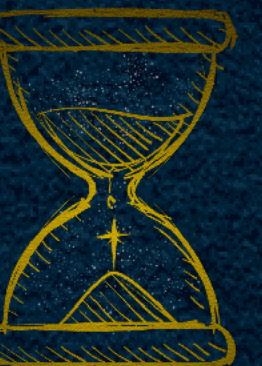


*When our heroes fail, we'll find it  
grounding rather than devastating.*

- Jesus saw ALL of his disciples fail and was not broken by it. He restored 11 of them.
- Paul and Demas

**2 Timothy 4:9 – 12**

Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

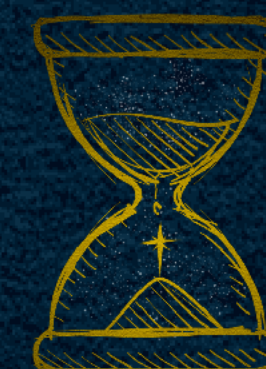




*A leader is a builder, not a pillar.*

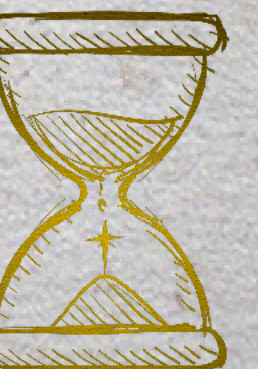
Scripture says that to believe and act  
otherwise is a mark of worldliness.

*1 Corinthians 3:2 – 9*





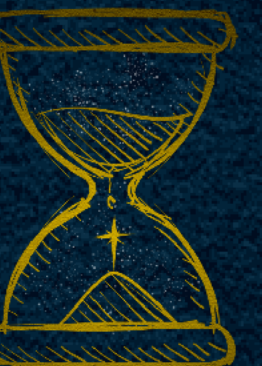
*4. Temperance is a virtue that  
needs no approval from men.*





*Sometimes it will seem like doing the right thing seems like it's going to make everyone hate you.*

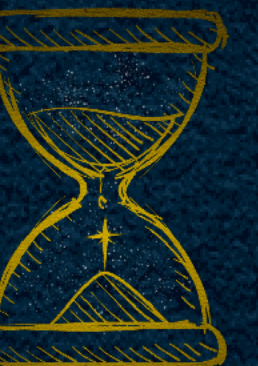
Example: Working to heal the racial divide and seek love and justice.





## *2 choices:*

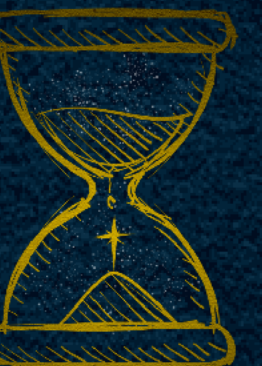
- Please the more powerful group.
- Please God and love our neighbors (having God's approval, and maybe still not our neighbor's).





# *John 13:34 – 35*

"A new command I give you: Love one another. **As I have loved you, so you must love one another.** **By this** all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

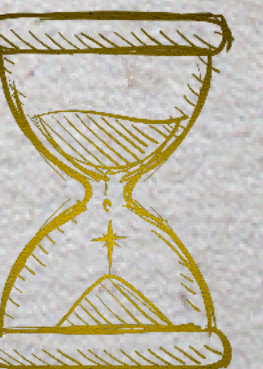




*Admitting the truth:*

*Are you interested in this  
level of temperance?*

*Do you want to be just like  
Jesus in his temperance?*





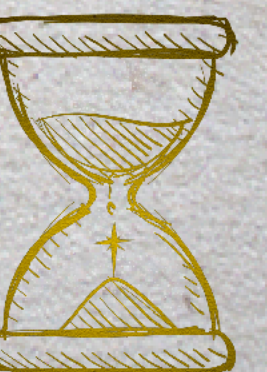
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# *1 Corinthians 3:4 – 9*

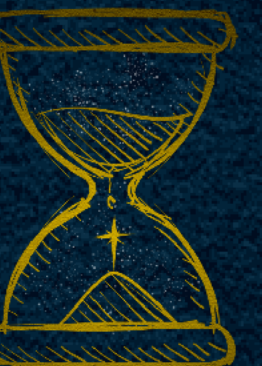
For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe... The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.





# *Isaiah 40:27 – 31*

Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.





# *1 Corinthians 1:25*

"but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews, and foolishness to the Greeks, Christ the power of God and the Wisdom of God."

