

Be Sober and Steadfast
Fairview, TX Church of God
July 24, 2010

BE SOBER

Okay, that may not mean what it appears at first.

The word translated for sober in the NT is Strong's 4993 "sophroneo" in the Greek and means moderate or sound minded

1 Peter 1:

- 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, **be sober**, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
- 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;
- 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
- 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."
 - The NIV translates the word here as "be self-controlled"

1 Peter 4:

- 1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
- 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
- 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, **drunkenness**, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.
- 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

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- 5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
- 6 For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.
- 7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore **be serious and watchful in your prayers.**
 - Here is the same word translated as “sober” elsewhere
 - Notice that verse 3 talked about “drunkenness”
 - This word is Strong’s #3632 (oinophlugia) meaning excess of wine
 - It is also translated as:
 - Drunkenness
 - Winebibbings
 - Hard drinking
 - Obviously, the word sober is not related to drinking
- 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."
- 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.
- 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
 - In verse 7, Peter says to be serious and watchful.
 - We could add sane, self-controlled, restrained, disciplined, able to reason
 - In other words, our prayers need to be serious and sound minded
 - Our prayers should not be rushed and without thought

1 Peter 5:

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- 8 Be **sober**, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.
 - Again here, the NIV uses the phrase “be self-controlled”

2 Corinthians 5:

- 9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.
- 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.
- 12 For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart.
- 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of **sound mind**, it is for you.
 - Where the word is translated “sound mind” in the NKJ, it was translated “sober” in the KJ and ASV
 - The RSV translates it as “right mind”
 - Paul is saying that he was moderate, disciplined and sound minded when it came to his teachings (and writings) to the Corinthians

1 Timothy 3:

- 1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.
- 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, **sober-minded**, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;

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- 3 **not given to wine**, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;
- 4 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence
- 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);
- 6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.
 - Paul stated the requirements to be a leader in the church
 - Sober-minded is translated “sensible” in the RSV
 - The NIV translated it “self-controlled”
 - Notice that verse 3 uses the Greek word “parionos” and is translated literally as “lingering with the cup” – Aristotle used the word as “rowdy”.
 - Where the NKJ version translates it as “not given to wine”, it is more appropriately “not given to much wine”
 - A person cannot lead and be “tipsy” or drunk at the same time
 - It would not make sense to use the word sober twice here and mean the same thing

Titus 1:

- 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, **not given to wine**, not violent, not greedy for money,
- 8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, **sober-minded**, just, holy, **self-controlled**,
- 9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.
 - Paul’s letter to Titus uses many of the same words as his letter to Timothy

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Titus 2:

- 1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:
- 2 that the older men **be sober**, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;
- 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, **not given to much wine**, teachers of good things--
- 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,
- 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
- 6 Likewise exhort the young men to be **sober-minded**,
- 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,
- 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.
- 9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,
- 10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

BE STEADFAST

1 Corinthians 15:

- 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--
- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

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- 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
- 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."
- 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"
- 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.
- 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be steadfast**, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
 - Strong's #1476 (hedraios) meaning settled or steadfast

2 Corinthians 1:

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia:
- 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
- 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.
- 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.
- 6 Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.
- 7 And our hope for you is **steadfast**, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.

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- The word translated steadfast here is Strong's #949 (bebaios) meaning firm, certain or sure
 - It is also translated as unshaken

Hebrews 2:

- 1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.
- 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved **steadfast**, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,
- 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,
- 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Hebrews 3:

- 7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice,
- 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,
- 9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years.
- 10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.'
- 11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"
- 12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;
- 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

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- 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence **steadfast** to the end,
- 15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."
- 16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?
- 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?
- 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?
- 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Hebrews 6:

- 9 But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.
- 10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
- 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,
- 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
- 13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,
- 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."
- 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.
- 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

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- 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,
- 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.
- 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both **sure and steadfast**, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,
- 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

1 Peter 5:

- 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- 9 Resist him, **steadfast in the faith**, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.
 - We read these verses earlier in relation to being sober
 - Here we are focused on verse 9 and its use of the word “steadfast”
 - The Greek word translated here is Strong’s #4731 (stereos) meaning:
 - Sure
 - Stable
 - Steadfast
 - Strong

Daniel 6:

- 25 Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

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- 26 I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And **steadfast** forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end.
- 27 He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.
- 28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.
 - God is steadfast
 - The Hebrew word used here is Strong's #7011 (qayam) also translated as "sure"

BE LIKE A ROCK

Matthew 7:

- 24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon **a rock**:
- 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon **a rock**.
- 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:
- 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.
 - The word for "rock" is Strong's #4073 (petra)
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Matthew 16:

- 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art **Peter**, and upon **this rock** I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

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- 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
 - We know that many use this play on words (Peter and petra) as proof that the church's first "pope" was Peter
 - Historical evidence does not support this assertion
 - It is more likely that Jesus' reference to "this rock" was a reference to Himself
 - The rest of the NT supports that there is no one between an individual and God except Jesus Christ as our only "high priest" – most prominently in the book of Hebrews:
 - **Hebrews 2:**
 - 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
 - **Hebrews 3:**
 - 1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,
 - **Hebrews 4:**
 - 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
 - 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
 - **Hebrews 5:**
 - 1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

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- 5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You."
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- 10 called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"
- **Hebrews 6:**
 - 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.
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- **Hebrews 7:**
 - 26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;
- **Hebrews 8:**
 - 1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,
 -
 - 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.
- **Hebrews 9:**
 - 7 But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

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- 11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.
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- 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another--
- **Hebrews 10:**
 - 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,
- **Hebrews 13:**
 - 11 For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

1 Corinthians 10:

- 1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,
- 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
- 3 all ate the same spiritual food,
- 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.
 - The “rock” of the OT that produced the manna and the water was Jesus Christ

Deuteronomy 32:

- 1 "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

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- 2 Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.
- 3 For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God.
- 4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.
- 5 "They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.
- 6 Do you thus deal with the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?

2 Samuel 22:

- 1 Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.
- 2 And he said: "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;
- 3 The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence.
- 4 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.
- 5 'When the waves of death surrounded me, The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.
- 6 The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.
- 7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry entered His ears.
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- 29 "For You are my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.
- 30 For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall.

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- 31 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.
- 32 "For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?"
- 33 God is my strength and power, And He makes my way perfect.
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- 47 "The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation!
- 48 It is God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me;
- 49 He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man.
- 50 Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name.
- 51 He is the tower of salvation to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore."
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2 Samuel 23:

- 1 Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel:
- 2 "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.
- 3 The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God.

Be sober, be steadfast and be like a rock.

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