# **METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRIES**

## ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES

### For the week ending February 28, 2014

#### Main Topic: Discipling the Powerful

Section One: We can begin our lesson by looking at the words of Paul found in Romans chapter thirteen.

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” Romans 13:1

God has ordained order, so be respectful to authority. This doesn’t mean that God approves the conduct of civil authorities. If we had to choose between obeying God or man, we must obey God. See Acts 5:29

“Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.” Romans 13:2

If you resist civil authority, you bring upon yourself God’s displeasure, and you may be facing judgments from the civil government.

“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:” Romans 13:3

It is to our advantage to be law-abiding citizens. If we do good, we earn people’s respect. But if you do wrong, then you face punishments for your actions.

“For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.” Romans 13:4

Civil laws are enforced to protect citizens from incivility. Those in law enforcement are there to find and punish criminals.

# “Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.” Romans 13:5

Do that which is good because it is the right thing to do, not just to avoid wrath.

“For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.” Romans 13:6

Paying your taxes or tribute is a way of showing your obedience to civil law.

“Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.” Romans 13:7

While the Jews hated tax-collectors, Christians were known to pay their taxes. It is important to be courteous, respectful, and law-abiding.

#### Section Two: Reaching the Powerful through Health and Temperance

In this section we can think of examples like Namaan and the Centurion, who was reached through the health work. There was the prophet Daniel who was a witness for temperance in the court of the king of Babylon.

Many of the most powerful men and women in the world are afflicting with disease due to poor health habits and stress. Health and Temperance is a vital avenue to reach the higher classes as well as the poor.

Consider the following counsel:

“Thousands in positions of trust and honor are indulging habits that mean ruin to soul and body. Ministers of the gospel, statesmen, authors, men of wealth and talent, men of vast business capacity and power for usefulness, are in deadly peril because they do not see the necessity of self-control in all things. They need to have their attention called to the principles of temperance, not in a narrow or arbitrary way, but in the light of God's great purpose for humanity. Could the principles of true temperance thus be brought before them, there are very many of the higher classes who would recognize their value and give them a hearty acceptance. {MH 211.1}

“We should show these persons the result of harmful indulgences in lessening physical, mental, and moral power. Help them to realize their responsibility as stewards of God's gifts. Show them the good they could do with the money they now spend for that which does them only harm. Present the total abstinence pledge, asking that the money they would otherwise spend for liquor, tobacco, or like indulgences be devoted to the relief of the sick poor or for the training of children and youth for usefulness in the world. To such an appeal not many would refuse to listen.” Ministry of Healing, 211

So let us take a look at the temperance work to reach others, and begin with this amazing quote found in the book *Temperance*, page 201.

“Temperance alone is the foundation of all the graces that come from God, the foundation of all victories to be gained.”

Then we also find this quote about intemperance:

“Intemperance lies at the foundation of all the evil in our world.” *Temperance*, page 165

**Why is temperance so important?**

“The law of temperance must control the life of every Christian. God is to be in all our thoughts; His glory is ever to be kept in view. We must break away from every influence that would captivate our thoughts and lead us from God. We are under sacred obligations to God so to govern our bodies and rule our appetites and passions that they will not lead us away from purity and holiness, or take our minds from the work God requires us to do.” *Counsels on Health*, page 42

**Consider these passages from Scripture as to the importance of temperance:**

Temperance is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, **temperance**: against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22, 23

Temperance is part of Peter’s ladder of Christian virtues: “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge **temperance**; and to **temperance** patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:” 2 Peter 1:4-10

A man needed to practice temperance to qualify as a bishop of the church: “For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, **temperate**;” Titus 1:7, 8

**What does the word temperance mean?**

Temperance comes from the Greek word *egrate*, meaning to divide. It denotes a return to self-control, or to cease to be out of control.

It comes from the Latin word *tempus*, where we get the word for time, or to divide.

Temperance is what divides the old life of intemperance from the new life of temperance in Christ. You might say that temperance, which is “the foundation of all the graces that come from God, the foundation of all victories to be gained,” is God’s way of separating good and evil.

Remember that in the beginning God said that everything which He had made was “very good.” Genesis 1:31. But there was one thing that was not good, namely, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

If Adam and Eve were to remain good they must not partake of that which is a mixture of good and evil. If they would partake of the forbidden fruit then they would lose self-control.

Why did Adam and Eve fall? They disobeyed God’s strict command. They partake of that which is a mixture of good and evil.

God does not want any of us to partake of anything that is evil. No worldly television, no worldly music, no crude jesting, and no harmful substances. In other words, God wants us to live a life of temperance, where we only partake of that which is holy, pure, and good. This is what a life of temperance and health is all about.

“God requires that His people shall be temperate in all things. Unless they practice temperance, they will not, cannot, be sanctified through the truth.” *Temperance*, page 252

Temperance is not only God’s means to free us from evil, but to also keep us in the good way.

“Temperance in all things is necessary to health, and the development and growth of a good Christian character.” *Counsels on Health*, page 38

Purity and holiness is a state of non-mixing, it is an experience to glorify God in all things by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Notice that it is Satan’s plan to lead us all into intemperance:**

“Satan gathered the fallen angels together to devise some way of doing the most possible evil to the human family. One proposition after another was made, till finally Satan himself thought of a plan. He would take the fruit of the vine, also wheat, and other things given by God as food, and would convert them into poisons, which would ruin man's physical, mental, and moral powers, and so overcome the senses that Satan should have full control. Under the influence of liquor, men would be led to commit crimes of all kinds. Through perverted appetite the world would be made corrupt. By leading men to drink alcohol, Satan would cause them to descend lower and lower in the scale.” *Temperance*, page 12

Satan wants to destroy us physically, that he might destroy us mentally, that he might ultimately destroy us spiritually.

**But what is God’s plan?**

“We want everyone to be a temperance worker.” *Temperance*, page 236

“From the light God has given me, every member among us should sign the pledge and be connected with the temperance association.” *Temperance*, page 236

##### Temperance and Souling Winning

“Be Compassionate and Sympathetic.--Let us seek to understand how to reach the people. There is no better way to do this than to be compassionate and sympathetic. If you know of those who are sick and in need of assistance, help them, try to relieve them in their distress. As you do this work, the power of the Lord will speak through it to the soul.” --General Conference Bulletin, April 23, 1901.

“Stand Shoulder to Shoulder.--In other churches there are Christians who are standing in defense of the principles of temperance. We should seek to come near to these workers and make a way for them to stand shoulder to shoulder with us. We should call upon great and good men to second our efforts to save that which is lost.”--Testimonies, vol. 6 pp. 110, 111.

**Consider these inspired words from Isaiah:**

“Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward.” Isaiah 58:8

Notice the following three laws in this verse:

First, the Law of Guidance. “Then shall thy light break forth as the morning.”

Second, the Law of Health, “And thine health spring forth speedily.”

Third, the Law of Character, “And thy righteousness shall go before thee.”

We need these three laws working in our life to live a life of holiness. We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We need temperance as the foundation of good health. And we need the impartation of the life of Christ.

Notes compiled by Pastor Jeff Wehr