**Thayer Podcast Monday, October 28, 2024**

**Biblical Virtues**

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This time around we’re going to talk about Virtue. According to the Oxford Reference Dictionary, Virtue is a quality considered morally good or desirable in a person*;* the important virtues are traditionally the four cardinal virtues … emphasized in both Catholicism and Freemasonry.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us "If anyone loves righteousness, [The Book of Wisdom] teaches temperance and prudence, justice, and courage.”

The Catechism (paragraphs 1806-1809) defines the four virtues …

Prudence … disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it;

Justice … consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor.

Fortitude … ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good.

Temperance … moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods.

Likewise, the four cardinal virtues are emphasized in the Masonic Entered Apprentice degree.

Masonic tradition teaches us that …

Temperance is the virtue of restraining passions and affections to avoid excess.

Fortitude is courage in the face of adversity or pain.

Prudence is good judgment, wisdom, and common sense.

And Justice is respecting others, fulfilling obligations, and expressing gratitude.

The Vatican gathers seven virtues together including the original four, which are found in the Old Testament’s Book of Wisdom, with the three appearing throughout the Bible - faith, hope, and charity.

Probably the most quoted of the Bible’s virtue verses is found in First Corinthians 13:13 which says, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." A confusing fact about that verse is the way charity and love exist interchangeably depending on which version of the Bible you happen to be reading. Some theologians argue that the King James Version - one of the oldest - weakens the doctrine about God and man by using the word charity instead of love. Others insist that charity is the highest form of love, signifying the selfless love God gives us.

Whatever! The virtues to which all good Christians should aspire are Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, Justice, Faith, Hope and Charity. Take that to the bank! And, on the way you can …

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi

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