

### **What is Diligence?**

As a virtue, diligence (Greek: *spoudē*) is the disposition to think and act with a proper sense of urgency and zeal. The original term literally meant “haste,” or “eagerness,” and Paul explicitly states that diligence is something that Christians should excel at, along with faith, knowledge, and love (2 Corinthians 8:7). Most importantly for our purposes, the term is used at both ends of the list of virtues in 2 Peter 1 to describe the Christian approach to growing in virtue.

#### Exercise #1

Read 2 Peter 1, verses 5 and 10, and reflect on the importance of diligence to the life described in these passages. Compare this to the account of Christian diligence found in 2 Timothy 2:15 (the word “diligence” is variously translated as “study” or “do your best”), and in Hebrews 4:11.

### **Why Diligence?**

The virtue of diligence helps us to fulfill our calling as Christians, both by directing us away from vice, and by leading us to earnest care for others. Diligence is not only crucial to leading (Romans 12:8) and exhorting others (2 Peter 1:15; Jude 1:3), but is also a quality for the community to have in order to maintain unity (Eph 4:3), and serve one another (2 Tim 1:17), especially the poor (Gal 2:10) and otherwise needy (Titus 3:13).

#### Exercise #2:

According to the following verses what should diligence overcome and avoid? Think of specific examples where this has been true in your life.

1. Romans 12:11 (in class we will look at the relation to Matthew 25:26 and Prov 6:6)
2. Hebrews 6:11-12 (in class we will consider the connection to Heb 5:11)

### **How Diligence?**

#### Exercise #3

Based on the following verses, how may we grow in our diligence?

1. 2 Corinthians 8:22
2. 2 Corinthians 7:11
3. 2 Peter 3:14
4. 2 Corinthians 8:16