

A Godward Passion weekend (July 22-24, 2004)
Following the pattern of 2nd Timothy 3:16-17

Doctrine—What <u>is</u> right

Session 1 (Thursday evening)—Define and explain what a Biblical passion really is

Passion defined:

- 1) In English, a passion is generally defined as a burning desire to see something accomplished. To be excited about something

- 2) In the Bible, various words are related to the concept of passion.
 - a) Based on the pathos family
 - i) Pathema (παθημα) [# 3804]—used in two different ways
 - (1) Things which one suffers *externally*—Romans 8:18 (+15 other uses)
 - (2) Things which one desires *internally*—Romans 7:5; Galatians 5:24
 - ii) Pathos (παθος) [# 3806]—physical desire, usually sexually
 - (1) Used in Romans 1:26; Colossians 3:5; 1st Thessalonians 4:5
 - iii) Homoiopathes (ὁμοιοπαθης) [# 3663]—of like or similar passions
 - (1) Acts 14:15; James 5:17
 - iv) Sumpathes (συμπαθης) [# 4835]—compassionate, sympathizing
 - (1) 1st Peter 3:8
 - (2) A related word is sumpatheo (συμπαθεω) [# 4834]—to sympathize, be compassionate—see Hebrews 4:15; 10:34
 - v) Metriopatheo (μετριοπαθεω) [# 3356]—to hold one's passions in restraint
 - (1) Hebrews 5:2—“deal gently with, have compassion on”

 - b) Based on the thumos family
 - i) Thumos (θυμος) [# 2372]—used in two different ways
 - (1) Intense, flaring anger—Luke 4:28 (+ 17 other uses)
 - (2) Intense desire, often destructive—Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 18:3; 19:15
 - ii) Epithumeo (επιθυμew) [# 1937]—to desire strongly
 - (1) In a *good* sense—Matthew 13:17; Luke 15:16; 16:21; 17:22; 22:15; 1st Timothy 3:1; Hebrews 6:1; 1st Peter 1:12; Revelation 9:6
 - (2) In a *bad* sense—Matthew 5:28; Acts 20:33; Romans 7:7; 13:9; 1st Corinthians 10:6; Galatians 5:17; James 4:2;
 - (3) A related word is epithumia (επιθυμια) [# 1939]—strong desire
 - (a) In a *good* sense—Luke 22:15; Philippians 1:23; 1st Thessalonians 2:17
 - (b) In a *bad* sense—Mark 4:19; John 8:44; Romans 1:24; 6:12; 7:7, 8; 13:14; Galatians 5:16, 24; Ephesians 2:3; 4:22; Colossians 3:5; 1st Thessalonians 4:5; 1st Timothy 6:9; 2nd Timothy 2:22; 3:6; 4:3; Titus 2:12; 3:3; James 1:14, 15; 1st Peter 1:14, 15; 2:11; 4:2, 3; 2nd Peter 1:4; 2:10, 18; 3:3; 1st John 2:16, 17; Jude 1:16, 18; Revelation 18:14

- iii) Homothumadon (ὁμοθυμαδον) [# 3661]—of one mind or passion
 (1) Acts 1:14; 2:1, 46; 4:24; 5:12; 7:57; 8:6; 12:20; 15:25; 18:12; 19:29;
 Romans 15:6
- c) The zelos family
- i) Zelos (ζηλος) [# 2205]—used in two different ways
 (1) In a *good* sense—excitement of mind, fervor of spirit, zeal—John 2:17;
 Acts 5:17; Romans 10:2; 2nd Corinthians 7:7, 11; 9:2; Philippians 3:7;
 Colossians 4:13; Hebrews 10:27;
 (2) In a *bad* sense—envy or jealousy—Acts 13:45; Romans 13:13; 1st
 Corinthians 3:3; 2nd Corinthians 11:2; 12:20; Galatians 5:20; James 3:14,
 16
- ii) Zeloo (ζηλω) [# 2206]—used in two different ways
 (1) In a *good* sense—intense desire for, zeal—1st Corinthians 12:31; 14:1, 39;
 Galatians 4:17, 18; Revelation 3:19
 (2) In a *bad* sense—envy or jealousy—Acts 7:9; 17:5; 1st Corinthians 13:4; 2nd
 Corinthians 11:2; 12:20; Galatians 5:20; James 4:2
- iii) Zelotes (ζηλωτης) [# 2207]—eager desire for
 (1) Used in Acts 21:20; 22:3; 1st Corinthians 14:12; Galatians 1:14; Titus 2:14
- d) The dioko family
- i) Dioko (διωκω) [# 1377]—to pursue
 (1) In the sense of *persecute*—Acts 7:52; 9:4, 5; 22:4, 7, 8; 26:11, 14, 15;
 Romans 12:14; 1st Corinthians 4:12; 15:9; 2nd Corinthians 4:9; Galatians
 1:13, 23; 4:29; 5:11; 6:12; Philippians 3:6; 2nd Timothy 3:12; Revelation
 12:13
 (2) In the sense of *pursuit*
 (a) Unbelievers—Romans 9:30, 31
 (b) Believers—Romans 12:13; 14:19; 1st Corinthians 14:1; Philippians
 3:12, 14; 1st Thessalonians 5:15; 1st Timothy 6:11; 2nd Timothy 2:22;
 Hebrews 12:14; 1st Peter 3:11
- ii) Diogmos (διωγμος) [# 1375]—persecution
 (1) Acts 8:1; 13:50; Romans 8:35; 2nd Corinthians 12:10; 2nd Thessalonians
 1:4; 2nd Timothy 3:11
- iii) Dioktes (διωκτης) [# 1376]—persecutor
 (1) First Timothy 1:13

Passion explained:

- 1) It springs from the heart of man and affects the intellect, emotion, and will.
- 2) It can be positive (love, good desire) or negative (sinful anger, lust).
- 3) It can be either man-centered or God-centered.

Session 2 (Friday morning)—Begin to explain God's passion from the Old Testament

- 1) In *creation*—Psalm 8:1, 9; 19:1-ff; 104:31; 148:13; Isaiah 6:3
- 2) In *redemption*—Psalm 79:9; Isaiah 44:23; 48:10-11
- 3) In *demonstrating wrath and mercy*
 - a) The execution of judgment on Egypt at the Red Sea—Exodus 14:17-28
 - b) The pardoning of rebellious Israel in the wilderness—Numbers 1:20-23
 - c) The offering of sacrifices following the 70 years of captivity—Haggai 1:8
 - d) The execution of judgment upon Sidon—Ezekiel 28:22
 - e) The execution of judgment upon Gog at the end of the Tribulation—Ezekiel 39:13
- 4) In *redeeming* Israel from Egypt—Exodus 9:16; Joshua 7:8-9; 2nd Samuel 7:23; Nehemiah 9:10; Psalm 106:8; Isaiah 63:12; Jeremiah 13:11; Ezekiel 20:9, 14, 22, 34-38, 42, 44; Daniel 9:15
- 5) In *preserving* Israel during the time of Samuel—1st Samuel 12:22
- 6) In *fulfilling* His promises to David in Solomon's reign—1st King 8:59-60
- 7) In *protecting* Israel from Sennacherib—2nd Kings 19:19
- 8) In *guiding* in the paths of righteousness—Psalm 23:3
- 9) In *pardoning* iniquity—Psalm 25:11
- 10) In *leading* and *guiding*—Psalm 31:3
- 11) In *helping*—Psalm 79:9
- 12) In *dealing* with people—Psalm 109:21
- 13) In *dealing* appropriately with sinning Israel—Jeremiah 14:7
- 14) In *delaying* His wrath toward Israel—Isaiah 48:9-10
- 15) In *restoring* Israel in the future—Isaiah 49:22-23; Ezekiel 36:20-23; 39:25; Daniel 9:19

Session 3 (Friday morning)—Continue to explain God's passion from the New Testament

- 1) *Christ's* ultimate goal in His *earthly ministry* was to bring glory to God—John 7:18; 12:17-28; 13:31-32; 17:1, 4; Philippians 2:6-11
- 2) In *redemption*—Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14; 2nd Corinthians 4:14-15
- 3) In *demonstrating wrath and mercy*
 - a) God's promises to His people—2nd Corinthians 1:20
 - b) God's mercy to the elect—Romans 9:22-23
 - c) God's punishment of the unsaved during the Tribulation—2nd Thessalonians 1:8-10
- 4) In *putting Christ above* all else—Matthew 19:29
- 5) In *forgiving sins*—Acts 15:14; Ephesians 2:4-7; 3:8-10; 1st John 2:12
- 6) In *obedience* of believers—Romans 1:5
- 7) In *evangelistic work*—3rd John 1:7
- 8) In Christian *labor*—Revelation 2:3
- 9) In *election* of believers—1st Peter 2:9

Reproof—What is not right

Session 4 (Friday afternoon)—Explain and expose our sinful and misguided passions

Obviously sinful passions: these passions are described as...

- 1) Degrading—Romans 1:26 (bring dishonor and shame when exposed)
- 2) Sinful—Romans 7:5 (those aroused by the Law)
- 3) Deceit—Ephesians 4:22
- 4) Of the earthly body—Colossians 3:5
- 5) Lustful—1st Thessalonians 4:5
- 6) Foolish and harmful—1st Timothy 6:9
- 7) Youthful—2nd Timothy 2:22
- 8) Variegated—2nd Timothy 3:6; Titus 3:3
- 9) Worldly—Titus 2:12; 1st John 2:17
- 10) In our ignorance—1st Peter 1:14
- 11) Fleshly—Galatians 5:24; 1st Peter 2:11; 2nd Peter 2:18; 1st John 2:16
- 12) Of men opposed to the will of God—1st Peter 4:2, 3
- 13) Corrupt—2nd Peter 2:10
- 14) Ungodly—Jude 1:18

Misguided, well-intentioned passions:

- 1) Human passions—Acts 14:15 (those associated with simply being human)
- 2) Acts 7:57—with one passion to destroy Stephen
- 3) Acts 18:12—with one passion to bring Paul to “justice”
- 4) Acts 19:29—with one passion to bring Gaius and Aristarchus to “justice”

How are we to deal with these passions?

- 1) Make no provision for them—Romans 13:14
- 2) Abort them—James 1:14-15
- 3) Abstain from them—1st Peter 2:11

Correction—How to <u>get</u> right

Session 5 (Friday evening)—Challenge and evaluate our current passions

- 1) Is our passion aligned with God's passion?
- 2) Is our passion bringing glory to His name?

Session 6 (Saturday morning)—Begin to explain a Godward passion

- 1) Who is the example of Godward passion?
 - a) Jesus set the example of Godward passion—John 2:17

- 2) In what specific areas of life are we to demonstrate a Godward passion?
 - a) Prayer—Acts 1:14
 - b) Hospitality—Romans 12:13
 - c) The things which make for peace and the building up of one another—Romans 14:19
 - d) Love—1st Corinthians 14:1
 - e) For other believers—2nd Corinthians 7:7, 11:2
 - f) Spiritual maturity—Philippians 3:12
 - g) Entering into Christ's presence—Philippians 3:14
 - h) What is good for one another and for all people—1st Thessalonians 5:15
 - i) Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness—1st Timothy 6:11
 - j) Righteousness, faith, love, and peace with other believers—2nd Timothy 2:22
 - k) For good works—Titus 2:14
 - l) Peace and holiness—Hebrews 12:14
 - m) Peace—1st Peter 3:11

- 3) What guidelines are available for me to understand a Godward passion?
 - a) A Godward passion will be in accordance with knowledge of God and His will—Romans 10:2
 - b) It is God who produces the same thoughts with one another for the purpose of glorifying God with one voice—Romans 15:5-6
 - c) True repentance will walk hand-in-hand with Godward passion—2nd Corinthians 7:11; Revelation 3:19
 - d) Our Godward passion will stir up the Godward passion of other true believers—2nd Corinthians 9:2

Session 7 (Saturday morning)—Continue to explain a Godward passion

- 1) PRAYER for political leaders sets the stage for godliness—1st Timothy 2:2
- 2) Godliness comes through DISCIPLINE (γυμναζω)—1st Timothy 4:7, 8
 - a) Godliness must be pursued—1st Timothy 6:11; 2nd Peter 1:6-7
- 3) SOUND DOCTRINE is designed to produce godliness—1st Timothy 6:3
 - a) Godliness is explained in God's Word—2nd Peter 1:3
- 4) ONE'S VIEW OF FUTURE EVENTS impacts one's present conduct—2nd Peter 3:11
- 5) GOD'S GRACE enables us to live godly in this present age—Titus 2:12
- 6) Our LOVE will focus either on the world or on the Father—1st John 2:15-17

Instruction in righteousness—How to stay right**Session 8 (Saturday afternoon)—Exhort to continue pursuing a Godward passion**

- Principles from *Don't Waste Your Life* by John Piper
 - 1) Defining a wasted life: "A wasted life is the life without a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples." (p. 31)
 - 2) Explaining a wasted life:
 - a) "We waste our lives when we do not pray and think and dream and plan and work toward magnifying God in all spheres of life." (p. 32)
 - b) "If you don't point people to God for everlasting joy, you don't love. You waste your life." (p. 35)
 - c) "Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest prize of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain." (p. 40)
 - d) "You may not be sure that you want your life to make a difference. Maybe you don't care very much whether you make a lasting difference for the sake of something great. You just want people to like you. If people would just like being around you, you'd be satisfied. Or if you could just have a good job with a good wife, or husband, and a couple of good kids and a nice car and long weekends and a few good friends, a fun retirement, and a quick and easy death, and no hell—if you could have all that (even without God)—you would be satisfied. That is a tragedy in the making. A wasted life." (p. 45)
 - e) "If Christ is not made much of in our lives, they are wasted.... If our life and death do not show the worth and wonder of Jesus, they are wasted." (p. 64)
 - f) "What a tragic waste when people turn away from the Calvary road of love and suffering. All the riches of the glory of God in Christ are on that road. All the sweetest fellowship with Jesus is there. All the treasures of assurance. All the ecstasies of joy. All the clearest sightings of eternity. All the noblest camaraderie. All the humblest affections. All the most tender acts of forgiving kindness. All the deepest discoveries of God's Word. All the most earnest prayers. They are all on the Calvary road where Jesus walks with his people. Take up your cross and follow Jesus. On this road, and this road alone, life is Christ and death is gain. Life on every other road is wasted." (p. 76)
 - g) "It is right to stand before the fiery furnace of affliction and refuse to bow down to the gods of this world. This is the road that leads to fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore. At the end of every road—secure and risk-free—we will put our face in our hands and say, 'I've wasted it!'" (p. 98)
 - h) "You don't waste your life by *where* you work, but *how* and *why*." (p. 132)
 - i) "If you work like the world, you will waste your life, no matter how rich you get. But if your work creates a web of redemptive relationships and becomes an adornment for the Gospel of the glory of Christ, your satisfaction will last forever and God will be exalted in your joy." (p. 154)

- 3) Questioning a wasted life: “Would you feel more loved by God if he made much of you, or if he liberated you from the bondage of self-regard, at great cost to himself, so that you enjoy making much of him forever?” (p. 36)
- 4) Contrasting a wasted life: “The opposite of wasting your life is living life by a single God-exalting, soul-satisfying passion.” (p. 43)
 - a) See 1st Corinthians 2:2
- 5) Final scripture: Acts 20:24