

Serving the Lord with Passion

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 6:10-13

INTRODUCTION.

I. WHEN PASSION FOR SIN RULES.

- A. God's people have not always lived by His standard.
- B. Consider Israel's desire for sin and worldliness as addressed in the book of Hosea.
 - 1. Israel broke all restraint. (Hosea 4:1-3, 12-13)
 - a. There was no truth or mercy. (vs 1)
 - b. There was no knowledge of God. (vs 1, cf. vs 6)
 - c. They broke all restraint by swearing, lying, killing, stealing, adultery, and bloodshed. (v 2)
 - d. They asked counsel from wooden idols. (v 12)
 - 2. Their faithfulness was like the morning dew. (Hosea 6:4-6)
 - a. Faithfulness like a morning cloud and dew that goes away. (v 4)
 - b. Neglected mercy and the knowledge of God. (v 6)
 - 3. They dealt treacherously with the Lord. (Hosea 6:7-11)
 - a. They transgressed God's covenant, dealing treacherously with God. (vs 7)
 - b. They were robbers. (vs 9)
 - c. They were murderers. (vs 9)
 - d. They committed lewdness. (vs 9)
 - e. Harlotry in Ephraim. (v 10)
 - 4. Their passion for sin grew hot. (Hosea 7:4-8)

- a. They were adulterers. (v 4) Their desire for passion was not extinguished, much like a heated oven after the baker stops stirring the fire.
 - b. They were inflamed with wine. (v 5)
 - c. Their passion for sin grew until it violently erupted, like an oven that grows hotter while the baker sleeps. (vs 6-7)
 - d. Ephraim mixed himself among the people. (v 8)
- C. Passion for sin ruled the hearts and minds of the Israelites. As a result, God rejected them as His people.

II. HAVE A PASSION FOR THE LORD.

- A. Keep the restraints established in God's word.
 - 1. Grow in our knowledge of His word. (2 Timothy 2:14-19; Hebrews 5:12-14)
 - a. Seek counsel from God and His Word instead of the worldly "idols" called wisdom. (1 Corinthians 3:18-21a; James 1:5)
 - b. Reject the moral standards or "wisdom" of man that contradict Scripture.
 - c. Pray for wisdom and listen to godly counsel.
 - 2. God's word teaches us what to avoid and what to embrace. (Galatians 5:19-26)
 - 3. Be servants of God, not slaves of sin. (Romans 6:12-14, 17-18)
- B. Keep our faithfulness constant, living, and growing.
 - 1. The more we study God's word, the more we strengthen our faithfulness. (Romans 10:17)
 - 2. Our faith should be a living faith. (cf. James 2:26; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:7)
 - 3. Faith enables us to live in a way that pleases God. (Hebrews 11:1-2, 6; Galatians 2:20)
- C. Honor our covenant with the Lord.

1. Always remember the price of this covenant we have with God, the death of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
 2. Christians are the bride of Christ. Let us honor our covenant with Him and not commit spiritual adultery. (Ephesians 5:25-27)
- D. Keep our worldly passions under control.
1. Let us honor the covenant by loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Mark 12:30)
 2. Let us seek for the kingdom of God. (Matthew 6:33)
 3. Let us put on the “new man.” (Colossians 3:8-17)
 4. Let us pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace. (2 Timothy 2:22)
 5. Serve the Lord with all zealously and effort. (Colossians 3:23-24; Titus 2:11-14)

CONCLUSION.

- A. Let us not be like Israel who followed their passions into sin and disobedience.
- B. Let us set our hearts on a passion for the Lord and walking in His fellowship.
- C. Let us be His people “zealous for good works.” (Titus 2:11-14)

Living by God’s Standard

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