

IN PURSUIT
of
SPIRITUAL
PASSION

LESSONS LEARNED
from
The EPHESIAN CHURCH

DAN HAYDEN, Teacher

Sola Scriptura
www.awordfromtheword.org

IN PURSUIT OF
SPIRITUAL PASSION
— **Studies in the Ephesian Church** —
(*Acts 18-19; Rev. 2*)

To have a significant impact in the community we must have a commitment to spiritual passion for Jesus Christ. The level of passion, not the level of knowledge, will be the measure of our impact. People will be drawn to Christ when they see that He is worthy of our passion.

- Session 1 - *The Cycle of Lost Love* Rev. 2, 3
Understanding the snowball effect created by the loss of first love
- Session 2 - *When Passion Becomes a Lifestyle* Acts 18:1-23
3 evidences of spiritual passion exhibited in the founding of the Ephesian Church
- Session 3 - *Getting It Right* Acts 18:24-28
Spiritual passion is only meaningful when it is committed to the right thing
- Session 4 - *Religion is Not Enough* Acts 19:1-7
Spiritual passion goes beyond religion to pursue a dynamic relationship with Christ
- Session 5 - *The Power of Passion* Acts 19:8-20
Spiritual passion for Christ is not the same as having a second-hand Jesus
- Session 6 - *Losing the Edge* Acts 19:21-41
Religious pluralism is incompatible with spiritual passion for Christ
- Session 7 - *Rekindling the Fire* Revelation 2:1-7
3 practical principles taught by Christ for restoring spiritual passion

SESSION 1
THE CYCLE OF LOST LOVE
— The demise of Spiritual Passion —
(Revelation 2&3)

INTRO: *Marriage in the 21st Century*

OUR MARRIAGE WITH CHRIST

- Salvation with Christ is a marriage bond
- Fellowship is important in a relationship
- Infidelity ruins fellowship

A. CONSIDER THE MAGNIFICENCE OF CHRIST (Rev. 1)

1. An awesome vision of the Son of Man
2. Important reflections in the 7 letters

B. UNDERSTAND THE CYCLE OF LOST LOVE (Rev. 2 & 3)

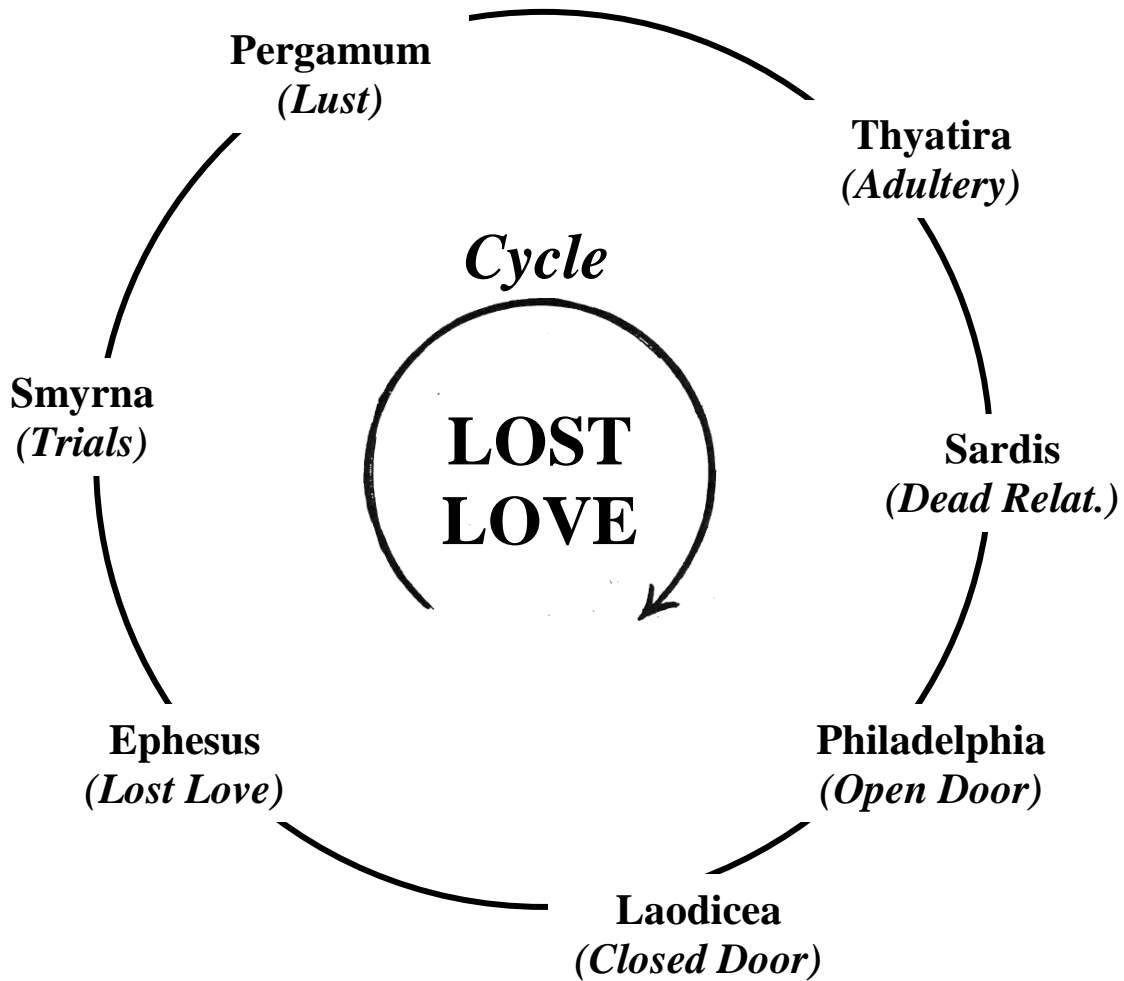
1. Grasping the Cycle in the Circle
2. Thinking about the pattern of deterioration
3. Noticing it all begins with lack of passion

C. LISTEN UP AND OVERCOME

1. The option for renewal is always available
2. The reward for renewal is worth dying for

CONCLUSION: *Loss of passion leads to diminishing love*

The Cycle of Lost Love (Revelation 2&3)



A geographical circle

A spiritual cycle

SESSION 2

WHEN PASSION BECOMES A LIFESTYLE

(Acts 18:1-23)

INTRO: *What Lights your Fire?*

3 EVIDENCES OF SPIRITUAL PASSION

1. A commitment to Christ that transcends life

Aquila & Priscilla

- ordinary people -

- They were dedicated to the work of the Lord
- They were devoted to the Word of the Lord

2. A great desire to participate in the love of Christ

- *Evangelism in Ephesus*

Some people build their house
within the sound of church and bell
But I desire to run a rescue shop
within three feet of hell

-- C.T. Studd

- *Edification in Ephesus*

Ministering to Apollos

3. A deep concern for intimate communion with the Savior

- *Serving Alone in Ephesus*

v. 21 - *Paul bade them farewell and sailed from Ephesus*

- *Strengthened by daily Communion with Christ*

"Shut thy door upon thee and call unto Jesus, thy love. When Jesus is nigh all goodness is nigh and nothing seems hard ... It is a great craft for a person to be conversant with Jesus; and to know how to hold Jesus is a great prudence."

Thomas à Kempis

SESSION 3

GETTING IT RIGHT

(Acts 18:24-28)

INTRO: *Passionate about the right thing*
—*to merely come close is to lose*

v. 24

Apollos of Alexandria

- **The City**
- **The Man**

A. THE EXTERNALS OF RELIGION CAN BE DECEPTIVE (v. 25)

GOOD vs. TRUE

- Enamored with eloquence
- Enthralled with excellence

B. THE ULTIMATE ISSUE IS JESUS (v. 26)

Apollos needed a focus adjustment

TWO ESSENTIAL QUALITIES

1. Apollos was humble
2. Apollos was teachable

ONE CENTRAL FOCUS

- *The preeminence of Christ*

C. THE WONDER OF CHRIST-CENTERED PASSION (v. 27, 28)

- The joy of helping others grow in Christ
- Spiritual power that is convincing

CONCLUSION: *A lesson in the power of passion*

SESSION 4

RELIGION IS NOT ENOUGH

(Acts 19:1-7)

INTRO: *A sum has only one right answer (5 + 3 = 8)*
But — some wrong answers are closer than others (7, 9)

TWO SCENARIOS (closest of the close)

Apollos — The Scriptures & Jesus

Disciples of John — The Holy Spirit & Jesus

v. 1 The Disciples of John the Baptist in Ephesus



A. The Holy Spirit is our ASSURANCE of salvation (v. 2)

The Holy Spirit is:

1. received at the moment of salvation
2. devoted to exalting Jesus Christ
3. a present daily experience

B. Religion is usually the ABSENCE of salvation (v. 3-4)

- *Religious ritual may be meaningful*
but — it is insufficient for salvation
- *Moral living is certainly desirable*
but — it is insufficient for salvation

C. Jesus Christ is the ANSWER for salvation (v. 5-7)

- *Baptism — our identification with Christ (5)*
- *Gifts of the Spirit — our orientation to Christ (6)*

CONCLUSION:

A relationship with Christ is initiated and sustained by the Holy Spirit

SESSION 5

THE POWER OF PASSION

(Acts 19:8-20)

INTRO: *NOT plugged in*

2 Timothy 3:5 — *"A form, of godliness—but no power"*

Principle

When our relationship with Christ is passionate,
Then, we will experience the power of godliness

v. 20 — **A Summary statement** ("In this manner...")

(lit.) *"by the might of the Lord
the Word increased and was strong"*

A. By the power of the Lord — The Word INCREASED (v. 8-10)

The Word increased = it spread to many people

1. The Word was proclaimed **BOLDLY** (8)
2. The Word was proclaimed **DAILY** (9)
3. The Word was proclaimed **BROADLY** (10)

B. By the power of the Lord — The Word PREVAILED (v. 11-19)

The Word prevailed = it was mighty & powerful

1. The **DEMONSTRATION** of power (11-12)
2. The **IMITATION** of power (13-16)
3. The **MAGNIFICATION** of power (17-19)

CONCLUSION:

*There is no power of godliness in
a second-hand Jesus*

"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might" (Eph. 6:10)

SESSION 6

LOSING THE EDGE

(19:21-41)

INTRO: *Woody Hayes at Wisconsin*

QUESTION

*How did the Ephesian church lose its first love?
This incident gives us a clue!*

1. Understand that the Gospel produces conflict (v. 21-28)

- Paul & others preaching the Gospel (21-22)
- Demetrius & others perturbed by the Gospel (23-28)

The PROBLEM - v. 27

- (1) *Our craft is in danger*
- (2) *Temple of Diana despised*

notice
order



The REASON - v. 26

Paul - persuading many people (The TRUTH)

2. Conflict has the potential of diminishing passion (v. 29-41)

- The city was confused (v. 29)
- Paul was confident (v. 30)
- The Church was constrained (v. 30, 31)
- The Gospel was compromised (v. 35-38)

RESULT: Passion was diminished (the loss of first love)

SESSION 7
REKINDLING THE FIRE
(Rev. 2:1-7)

INTRO: *You never give me "you"*

Christ's passion for us is consistent (v. 1)

- *He holds us in high esteem*
- *He is concerned about fire in the heart*

A. RELATIONSHIPS ARE FLAT WITHOUT PASSION (v. 2-4)

1. Being faithful is only half the story

- **They were solidly obedient**
- **They were strictly orthodox**

2. Without passion a relationship becomes dull

- **First love forgotten**
- **First love forsaken**

B. RESTORING THE PASSION REKINDLES THE JOY (v. 5-?)

A 3-Part Process

1. REMEMBER — Think about it

2. REPENT — Change your mind

3. RETURN — Begin responding with passion