

What Consumes You?

JOHN 2:13-17

1

What Consumes You?

Work?

- Work is a good thing from God, and commanded
 - II Thessalonians 3:6-12 – “we worked night and day”
 - I Timothy 5:8 – “if anyone does not provide”
 - Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 – “find enjoyment in all”
- However, work should not consume us
 - Ecclesiastes 2:17-23 – “toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill”
 - James 4:13-17 – “you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes”

2

What Consumes You?

Work? Education?

- Education, wisdom, and knowledge have value
 - Ecclesiastes 2:13 – “more gain in wisdom”
 - 7:11-12 – “wisdom preserves the life”
 - 9:16-18 – “wisdom is better than might”
- However, it is also vain
 - Ecclesiastes 2:12-16 – “the wise dies just like the fool”
 - 12:12 – “much study is a weariness”

3

What Consumes You?

Work? Education? Worry?

- There are many things to worry about
 - Matthew 6:25, 31 – “What shall we eat? ...”
- Worry is overwhelming
 - Matthew 6:34 – “Sufficient for the day is its own trouble”
- Worry accomplishes nothing
 - Matthew 6:27 – “which of you by being anxious can add a single hour”

4

What Consumes You?

Work? Education? Worry?

Liberties/Opinions/Matters of Indifference?

- Liberties should not become our master
 - I Corinthians 6:12 – “I will not be enslaved by anything”
 - Hebrews 12:1-2 – “let us also lay aside every weight”
- These matters have nothing to do with pleasing God
 - Romans 14:1-4, 17 – “but not to quarrel over opinions”
 - I Corinthians 8:8-9 – “will not commend us to God”
 - Galatians 6:15 – “a new creation”
- Being consumed by these matters leads to contention
 - James 4:11-12 – “There is only one lawgiver”

5

What Should Consume You?

Zeal for God's Will

- Jesus' consuming zeal was for His Father's will
 - John 2:16-17 – “Zeal for your house will consume me.”
 - Matthew 21:13 – “My house shall be called a house of prayer”
- From early on to the end of His life
 - Luke 2:49 – “I must be in my Father's house”
 - Matthew 26:39 – “not as I will, but as you will”

6

What Should Consume You?

Zeal for God's Will

- God's house now – the church of God, "the pillar and ground of the truth" (ASV)
 - I Timothy 3:15 – "the church of the living God"
- Zeal for matters pertaining to the church
 - Romans 12:4-13 – "be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord"
- Zeal for matters pertaining to the truth
 - Psalms 119:97 (meditation); II Timothy 2:15 (study); Jude 3 (defending); Matthew 28:18-20 (evangelizing/teaching)

7

What Should Consume You?

The nature of this consuming zeal: Informed

- Jesus' zeal came from a knowledge of God's will
 - John 2:16 – "my Father's house"
 - Matthew 21:13 – "It is written"
- It starts with the content of the heart
 - Proverbs 4:23 – "Keep your heart ..."
 - Mark 7:20-23 – "What comes out of a person"
- Zeal for good things
 - Galatians 4:17-21 – "for a good purpose"
- Zeal without knowledge is destructive
 - Romans 10:2-3 – "not according to knowledge"

8

What Should Consume You?

The nature of this consuming zeal: Informed, Controlled

- Jesus' actions were deliberate and justified
 - John 2:14-17 – "he drove them all out"
- Consuming zeal without an infallible standard will be out of step with God
 - John 16:2-3 – "they have not known the Father, nor me"
- Consuming zeal for the things of God will cause us to alter our decisions accordingly
 - I Corinthians 8:9-13; 9:19-23 – "lest I make my brother stumble"
 - II Corinthians 5:14 – "the love of Christ controls us"

9

What Should Consume You?

The nature of this consuming zeal: Informed, Controlled, Active

- Jesus did not ignore irreverence, but addressed it
 - John 2:14-17 – "Take these things away"
- He used His time, resources, and energy in this zeal
 - John 9:4-5 – "We must work the works of him"
- Such zeal is vigilant, and takes advantage of opportunities to further God's will
 - Ephesians 5:15-17 – "Look carefully then how you walk"

10

What Should Consume You?

The nature of this consuming zeal: Informed, Controlled, Active, Persistent

- Jesus cleansed the temple more than once
 - John 2:14-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-46 – at the beginning and the end of His teaching.
- Some are initially zealous, but fade due to adversity
 - Matthew 13:20-21 – "immediately he falls away"
- Some have their zeal until the world entices them
 - II Timothy 4:10 – "in love with this present world"
- Some let the fire die out over time
 - Revelation 2:2-5 – "abandoned the love ..."

11

What Does/Should Consume You?

• Does Consume

- Work
- Education
- Worry
- Liberties/Opinions/Matters of Indifference

• Should Consume

- Zeal for God's will
 - Informed
 - Controlled
 - Active
 - Persistent

12

What Is Next?

- Hear the Word of God
 - Romans 10:8 – “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)”
- Believe that Jesus is the Savior
 - Romans 10:11 – “For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’”

13

What Is Next?

- Repent of your sins
 - Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”
- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - Romans 10:10 – “For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

14

What Is Next?

- Be immersed in water
 - Acts 2:38 – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”
- Remain faithful
 - Hebrews 3:14 – “... leading you to fall away from the living God”

15