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## A Passion for God's Presence and Reign

### Psalm 132

Pastor Mark Kremer

If I were to ask those who know you best what you are most passionate about, what would they say? What would *you* say that you are most passionate about? When you talk about passion with Nebraskans, I think we get a little bit nervous. We are not exactly known as passionate people. We like our coffee really weak. We like our leaders not to be too flamboyant and not too over-the-top. We kind of like everything just a little understated, not too passionate.

When we think of passion, we think that is a little scary. The word really means what you are devoted to or where your affections are. Again, I would ask the question: What are you most passionate about? What are you most devoted to? What would the people who know you best say that you are devoted to?

We have now come to the last of our psalms for the summer. This is a great psalm to end on. I invite you to turn to Psalm 132, which is a psalm about David and his passion. In response to David's passion, we see God's passion and what He is devoted to. We could summarize this psalm by saying it is a psalm about "For This Purpose I Live." It is just a great psalm to end our summer Psalms series on, because it is about priority. It is about vision and passion.

Again, this psalm is one of those 15 psalms that are part of the Songs of Ascent. This is the songbook that they would use when people would travel to Jerusalem to worship God at various intervals through the year for the different festivals. This is one of the songs that they sang. It is a song that had a historical time, place and events that were a part of what this song is all about.

**Remember, O LORD, on David's behalf, all his affliction; how he swore to the LORD and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, "Surely I will not enter my house, nor lie on my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob." (vs. 1-5. \*NASB)**

We can read the history that surrounds these verses back in 2 Samuel, chapters 6 and 7. There also is a parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 15 and 16. I would really encourage you to go back and read those other texts, because it will give you the setting for this psalm. David has just ascended to the throne. He has been anointed for some time, but now all of Israel recognizes David as king. He has established a house for himself in Jerusalem. That is going to be the capital of this kingdom.

David had cultivated throughout his lifetime a heart for God. In fact, God said, "I saw you out in the fields when you were a shepherd and I called you to be the shepherd of My people." David had a passion for God. David had also observed the reign of Saul just prior to him, and what a disaster that was! Saul was a person who was completely and totally selfish. The kingdom and his reign were all about him. He did not follow after God; he did not seek God. It was disastrous, not only for Saul, but for his family. As kingdoms go, you ultimately want your son or one of your sons to sit on the throne, and Saul did not have that privilege because he was so disobedient to God.

David has this heart and passion for God. He had observed Saul's reign and he recognized that the worship of God, God's rightful place among His people, had been neglected. It had been completely ignored during the reign of Saul.

In fact, twenty years prior to David's ascension to the throne, when there were still judges ruling the land of Israel, the Philistines had overcome Israel and had conquered the nation and carried off the Ark of the Covenant. This was the symbol and the place where God met with His people. It is where

God's presence was among His people. There, between the cherubim and over the mercy seat, is where God's glory and God's presence was among His people. They carried off the Ark. As the Philistines carried off the Ark, suddenly every town or village where it came into, the people got sick and died. They would find their idol gods fallen down in the mornings before the Ark. They said, "Get this thing out of here." They just sent it back. They did not send any people with it. They just put it on an oxcart and carried it back.

It was found but it was never again, under Saul's reign, put into service. The tent of the tabernacle was never erected. The worship did not happen. In fact, the Ark of the Covenant ended up being stored in some guy's barn in a little village just outside of Jerusalem.

Now David has come to the throne and David has a heart for God. It has been cultivated over the years. And David says, "I understand that God is the king and ruler of these people. I am a sub-king. I am a steward of this kingdom, but these are God's people. This nation will flourish if God is in His rightful place. If God's presence and His reign is honored, then this nation will thrive and my kingdom will be able to thrive. I am under the King of kings."

That is pretty rare among kings, isn't it? Kings typically like to relish their sovereignty, their absolute and supreme authority. The history of our world says that most kings will elevate themselves, will exalt themselves, will crush people, will have injustice and be merciless in their reign.

We can think in just the last century of all the kingdoms and all the dictators, all the rulers who built statues to themselves and plastered their faces all over every place and made themselves to be the centerpiece of their nation.

David says, "I understand one thing, and that is that God is the center of this nation. If God is not in His rightful place, then anything I attempt, anything that we attempt as a people, will fail. These are God's people. I am a steward." David's consuming passion was the presence and reign of God among the people of Israel. In fact, in verse 1 the word "his affliction" really means all the trouble he went to. It is saying, "Remember David and all the trouble he went to to bring the Ark of God and the presence of God back into the center of the life of the nation of Israel."

He said, "I will not rest, I will not enter my house or lie in my bed, give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids." We do not read in historical accounts that he literally went without sleep or did not go home until this happened. It was just simply a poetic statement of saying this was his first priority: to get God back in His rightful place, to reestablish that his people would worship God and honor God, God's presence and reign. David said, "That is my single-minded passion. Everything else that I could tackle in my early days of my kingship are going to play second fiddle, second place, to getting God back in His rightful place." David had a passion for God to be in His rightful place.

**Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah, we found it in the field of Jaar.** (v. 6)

He is simply telling us that he had heard about where the Ark was. They rediscovered where it was while they were in Bethlehem. It is really the region around Bethlehem, Ephrathah. Jaar means the field of the woods. It refers to a town about eight miles west of Jerusalem in an area called Kiriath-jearim. That is where the Ark was, tucked away in somebody's barn.

**We found it in the field of Jaar. Let us go into His dwelling place; let us worship at His footstool.** (vs. 6b-7)

David's heart and passion was to be a worshiper. He could have had all the glory and attention drawn to himself, but he said, "No let's go. I am not only the king but I am a fellow worshiper. I am under and subject to the King of kings. Let's go and worship at His footstool."

The Ark of the Covenant was often called the footstool of God, which literally just meant that is where God's presence touched the earth. God's presence was in heaven but his footstool was the Ark of the Covenant. It was the temple or the tabernacle of meeting where God met with His people. "Let's go and worship at the footstool of God. Let's go worship in His tabernacle."

**Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength.** (v. 8)

This particular phrase was used way back from the time God first gave the instructions on how the tabernacle was to be built and the Ark of the Covenant was to be built. God designed it all, and when the people of Israel would set up camp, the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies and the Ark of the Covenant would be in the center of the community. It was a visual reminder that God needs to be in the middle of His people. He needs to be front and center. He needs to be the first priority.

Every time the people of Israel got up to move and go to another location on their journey to the promised land, the Ark of the Covenant would be placed out in front of the people. They would go behind the Ark. It was a way of saying, "God, You have to go before us. We are not going out on this journey on our own strength. We are not going out on our own wisdom, but God, You have to go before us and show the way."

As the priests would pick up the Ark to move it, this is what they would say: "Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place." It was the cry of the priests as they would lift up the Ark and begin out on a journey again, on to the next place. "God, go before us—You and the Ark of Your strength." Again, this was not idolatry. These people did not worship the Ark. The Ark was distinct from God. "You God, come to Your resting place and the Ark of your strength." The Ark was a symbol of the strength and power of God among His people. They clearly understood that God was greater than the Ark itself. This cry was: "O LORD, come to Your resting place. Come to take your rightful place in the kingdom."

David, we are told, brought the Ark of the Covenant and reestablished the tabernacle there in Jerusalem. David actually had two passions. The first passion was just to get God's presence and reign established again among the people. That was by bringing the Ark back and reestablishing and setting up the tabernacle, along with the sacrifices and the priesthood, so that God could be worshiped and honored and the sin of His people could be dealt with through the sacrifices.

David had a deeper passion in his heart as well: to build a permanent dwelling place for God—a temple. David desperately wanted to build the temple. He went to God with that and God said, "I have been content to live in a tent for a very long time. Never once, in all my years of living in a tent, did I complain to anyone and say, 'Why don't you build Me a permanent house?'"

God did not care about the building or the structure. God just wanted to be among His people. He said, "I don't need a grand house, but David, go ahead and develop the plans and your son will ultimately build Me a temple." Solomon built the temple. This psalm or part of this psalm was used at the dedication of that temple. We are reminded of David's passion to see God put in His rightful place among the people.

**Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Your godly ones sing for joy.**  
(v. 9)

David understood that unless God is in His rightful place, there is no happiness and there is no holiness. There is no righteousness and there is no joy unless God is in His rightful place. As we come to worship God in His dwelling place, let there be joy. Let God's righteousness clothe the priests to carry out the duties to cover the sin of the people.

David could have had a lot of passions. He could have been very selfish. He could have been thinking about his kingdom and his legacy. But David's heart was towards God. His consuming desire was that God have His rightful place, not only in his life but in the lives of the nation that he was called to lead.

I come back to the question that I asked as we began: What are you passionate about? What is it that you are singularly devoted to? I am very convicted by this passage, because even people in ministry can be consumed with a lot of other things, other than the presence and reign of God. There are a lot of substitutes that we can put in our lives. You may have many interests. You may have many things that you are involved in. But is the reign of Jesus Christ and His presence your consuming passion to the point where you would say, "I am more concerned about that than I am my own house, my own comforts, my own career, or all the things that we would typically think of as being part of our domain"? My first priority should be beyond even my own comfort, my own security. It should be God's presence and God's reign.

For those of us in America, it is not very demanding to be a Christian in an evangelical church for many of us. I believe there are many, many people around the world who have a much better handle on this kind of passion and devotion to the kingdom of God than we do.

One of our fellow elders, Gus Hustad, gave those of us on the board a book called *The Heavenly Man*. It is the account of a Chinese house church leader, Brother Yun. Brother Yun came to faith in Christ and has devoted his life to advancing the kingdom in his own country and now around the world. He has been imprisoned on three different occasions. He has been beaten and tortured. He has been ridiculed. He has had to flee for his life. He has escaped ultimately out of China and then out of another country to come to the West. Listen to what Brother Yun says as he talks about his experience in the West—meaning Europe, the United States and Canada:

"On some occasions I have struggled while speaking in western churches. There seems to be something missing that leaves me feeling terrible inside. Many meetings are cold and lack the fire and presence of God that we have in China. In the West, many Christians have an abundance of material possessions, yet they live in a backslidden state. They have silver and gold but they don't rise up and walk in Jesus' name. In China we have no possessions to hold us down and so there is nothing preventing us from moving out for the Lord. The Chinese church is like Peter at the beautiful gate. When he saw the crippled beggar, he said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...walk.' In a similar way, I pray that God might use the Chinese church to help the Western church rise up and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is almost impossible for the church in China to go to sleep in its present situation. There is always something to keep us on the run. It is very difficult to sleep while you are running. If persecution stops, I fear we will become complacent and fall asleep."

- Brother Yun's words in *The Heavenly Man: The Remarkable True Story of Chinese Christian Brother Yun* by Paul Hattaway, Monarch Books, pp. 295-296

This is a man whose heart and passion is for the kingdom of God...to know God's presence and His reign, not only in his own life but in lives of people around the world. It is the source of righteousness and joy. It is where holiness and happiness come from.

David was determined to see that would be the mark of his kingdom, of his reign over Israel—that God's presence and reign would be the clear distinction of the people of Israel.

David has shared his passion, and now God responds in verses 10 through 18. In fact, verses 10 through 18 mirror almost verse by verse the same thing that is talked about in verses 1 through 9, as David would swear this, you will see God is going to swear and commit to something. Notice the similarity of verse 10 to verse 1.

**For the sake of David Your servant, do not turn away the face of Your anointed.**

(v. 10)

Again, he goes back to remember David—to remember David’s heart and David’s passion. “For David’s sake, don’t turn Your face away from Your anointed.” We know this psalm was used at the dedication of the temple by Solomon. This may very well be Solomon saying, “Because of my father David’s passion for you, his determination that you be front and center in the nation, remember me. Don’t turn your face away. Don’t turn my face away, but shine your face upon us. Don’t reject me.”

**The LORD has sworn to David a truth from which He will not turn back: “Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne. If your sons will keep My covenant and My testimony which I will teach them, their sons also shall sit upon your throne forever.”**

(vs. 11-12)

David said, “I want to build a house for God.” And God said, “I want to build a house for you, David.” God responded to David’s passion for God to be front and center by saying to David, “I am going to make a promise to you, a covenant with you from which I am not going to turn back.”

When God promises something, He always follows through. He always does it. Here the promise is: “I will establish your throne forever. From your descendants there will always be somebody sitting on the throne. There’s an “if”...*if* they will keep My commandments. If they will follow after Me. If they will have a heart like David did and like Solomon, then they will be established forever.”

Now we know the sad truth is that many of the descendants that came after David were not at all like David. They were selfish. They were disobedient; they were exceedingly wicked. And ultimately not more than 300 or 400 years after this promise, the line of David ceased to be on the throne. When finally Israel was overrun, there were no longer any descendants of David on the throne of the kingdom of Israel. Is God still going to keep His promise? Is God going to keep His word, even though we know that the descendants of David ceased to be on the throne? We will come back to that in a minute.

**For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. “This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.”** (vs. 13-14)

Just as David said, “God, I want You to take up residence and be present here in the nation,” God says, “I am going to. I have chosen Zion”—which is the hill or the mountain upon which Jerusalem is built. “I have chosen Zion as My eternal dwelling place.”

The word back in verse 5 where David says, “I want to find a dwelling place for the Lord” is a different word. It means a temporary place. It means a tent. “I want a temporary place for God to dwell.” David understood that God was much bigger than could be contained in a tabernacle or in the Holy of Holies. But God turns around and responds by saying, “David, I want you to understand something. I am going to make Jerusalem My eternal dwelling place. You not only want Me to be among My people; I want to be among My people. I want to dwell with My people. I don’t want to be far off and distant. I want to be very present. I want to be among My people. I am going to establish Zion in the midst of My people as My eternal dwelling place, My habitation forever.” That is God’s promise.

He goes on to say what will happen when God’s presence is there and God is reigning and dwelling in Zion.

**“I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her needy with bread.”** (v. 15)

In other words, when God is in His rightful place, He satisfies all of the needs of His people. He takes care of His people when He is in His rightful place. That is His promise: “I am going to provide for My people.”

**“Her priests also I will clothe with salvation, and her godly ones will sing aloud for joy.”**  
(v. 16)

He is saying, “I will produce righteousness and salvation; I will produce joy because of My presence among the people.”

The last part of this psalm is prophetic. In other words, it has an immediate fulfillment, it has an intermediate fulfillment, and it has a final fulfillment. It is a prophecy.

The immediate fulfillment of God’s promise is to make Zion His dwelling place and to satisfy His people...to clothe them with righteousness and joy. This was the reign of Solomon. It was the most glorious kingdom probably the earth has ever known. As you read through the historical accounts, you will not find a time in a nation anywhere in the world’s history that was as glorious and splendid as was the reign of Solomon. The wealth of the nations was brought to him. The temple of God that he erected was absolutely astounding in its beauty. God showed His favor on the nation because Solomon, too, was a man after God’s heart, who pursued the God of his father. He put him front and center in the nation and God blessed them and honored them. It was a time of prosperity. It was a time of rejoicing. It was the peak of the history of the people of Israel.

But again, we come back to the fact that after Solomon there were a number of kings who did not have a heart for God. Ultimately the descendants ceased to be on the throne.

The intermediate prophecy of this particular passage we see clearly in verse 17:

**“There [in Zion] I will cause the horn of David to spring forth...”** (v. 17a)

To “spring forth” means to bud, to blossom or to branch. It is speaking of this branch that would come out of the line of David to fulfill this promise that God made: to always have a descendant of David on the throne. The prophets picked up on this word “branch.” They said it was a description of Jesus Christ. He was a branch that came out of Jesse, out of the line of David. Lo and behold, God made this promise to David that Zion would be His eternal dwelling place and that one of his descendants would sit on the throne forever. David died, and a thousand years later from the time of David along comes Jesus Christ.

We open up our Bible and read in Matthew the genealogy of Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. There he is, a descendant of David. Not only is Joseph a descendant of David, but we go to the Gospel of Luke and we see the genealogy of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Lo and behold, Mary is in the line of David. There is this Son of God, this God who would come to earth and take on human form because He desires to be with His people.

Sin is keeping men separated from God, so God fulfills the covenant that David could not keep and his descendants could not keep. God knew when he named the covenant that the descendants of David would not keep the covenant. So God kept it for him. And Jesus Christ came into this family of Mary and Joseph, born of a woman to be once and for all the sin-bearer. No more would God have to be met in the tent of meeting at the mercy seat with blood sprinkles to cover for sin. Jesus Christ would die, and once for all time and for all sin, He would die and take the punishment for sin—that all who would believe in Him and follow after Him would have eternal life and forgiveness. They would have real holiness and joy.

In fact, when He says, “I will clothe My priests with salvation,” all who believe in Christ are called the royal priesthood. He has made us to be a kingdom of priests. In other words, we don’t have to go through some other level of intermediary to get to God. God has called all of us priests. We all have access to God because of the work of Christ.

God caused this horn to grow up out of David. He says again in the second half of verse 17:

**“I have prepared a lamp for Mine anointed.”** (v. 17b)

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. I am the one who shines light into the darkness. I am the one who shows the way. Do you want to know the way to the Father? Do you want to know the way to being in the presence of God? Follow Me. I am the lamp. I am the light.” Jesus fulfilled that promise.

**“His enemies I will clothe with shame, but upon himself his crown shall shine.”** (v.18)

Again, this is talking about Jesus and this suddenly causes us to realize that this is not fully fulfilled yet. Yes, Jesus came and He died for sin. He has conquered sin and death and He ascended back in heaven, but where is the crown? Where is the reign? Where is the eternal habitation in Zion where God will forever live with His people?

He is with us now in the person of the Holy Spirit. He indwells us and we understand that He is with us, but it is not fully complete yet, is it? We have not yet come to experience this kingdom where God is reigning on Zion, His holy mountain. And so, we have to look forward to the very end of Scripture.

I invite you to turn with me to Revelation 21, where ultimately this psalm, Psalm 132, is fulfilled. It is an incredible picture of what is yet to come. What is your future? What is my future? What is the future of people who are followers of Jesus Christ, those who have believed in Him as the King, who have received salvation as a gift from Him because of His work on the cross? We will experience this eternal paradise that God goes to great lengths to describe in the very end of the Book of Revelation. This is after the Tribulation. This is after the judgment of Satan and all of those who have followed after Satan—after they have been cast into the lake of fire. They have been cast into hell forever.

Revelation 21:1:

**Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle [*the dwelling*] of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.”** (Rev. 21:1-3)

Three times in that verse it says, “I will be among them”—that God wants to be with His people. Skip down to verse 22 of chapter 21. There is a great description. All of this is descriptive, but we don’t have time to read it all.

**I saw no temple in it [*this new city*], for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need for the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.** (Rev. 21: 22-23)

Jesus is the light that will illuminate the new Jerusalem. There is no need for sun or moon. There is no need for artificial light. The glory of God will so fill the place that it will be lighted.

**The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.** (Rev. 21:24-27)

Revelation 22:3 goes on:

**No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.** (Rev. 22:3-5, NIV)

Do you understand that is your destiny as a child of God? Do you understand that David's passion was for God to have a dwelling place among His people? And God said, "No, let me tell you what My passion is. My passion is forever to dwell with My people in the glorious kingdom of paradise." This is a place where there is no sin, no suffering and no curse. It is a physical kingdom. We have to understand that. We understand now that when we die our spirit goes to be with God. But there is a resurrection coming when body and spirit will be reunited and at the end of the ages, at the end of time, God will establish a new physical kingdom. Where will it be? It will be on earth. The new earth that God creates and the new Jerusalem as His eternal dwelling place—this is the fulfillment of the prophesy of Psalm 132. There will be commerce and nations and kingdoms. It will all be made up of believers. The glory of the nations will come and go into this kingdom, and we will know God and He will know us. His name will be on our forehead to enjoy forever and ever and ever.

I ask you the question: What really do you want to devote your life to? What could you find to give yourself to that would be more important and more significant than the kingdom of God? Isn't the deepest longing of your heart to know the king and to have a personal, lasting, satisfying relationship with the God of the universe through Jesus? All of the things that you and I pursue that we think will fill us up and make us happy, do they really work? Or is it the presence of God that really brings holiness and happiness? Do you understand that if we give our lives like Brother Yun to building the kingdom here, that all the reward of what we do here is carried forward and will be enjoyed forever in that new kingdom in the dwelling place of God forever and ever?

I cannot think of anything more worthy of my full devotion than the King and His kingdom. I know we all have lots of interests. I am not saying we need to get rid of all of our interests and our hobbies, the things we enjoy. But I am saying: bring God into all of that. Use everything that God has put within you—every ability, every passion, every interest—to build the kingdom. It all can be used to build the kingdom and to know the king. It does not matter what your job is. It does not matter where you live or any of that stuff. You can take what you have and you can turn it all towards the King and the kingdom. You can have a heart, I can have a heart, like David—that God would be in His rightful place in everything.

Again, I am convicted when I hear the stories of other people and I see their devotion to God the King and His kingdom. We sent a group of folks with SportReach, just a week or so ago, from Berean down to Peru to do family camp and help a little church there as they seek to reach their community with the gospel. It is a very poverty-stricken community. Doug and Sandi Peterson came back and we chatted this week about what they saw and what struck them as they were down there. Doug said what struck them was the devotion of the Christians to the Word of God in obeying God and reaching their community. He said, "Absolutely we thought we were going down there to help them, and in fact they turned around and just showed us how to walk the walk of faith." He said, "In everything they did

throughout their day, they were thinking about Scripture, they were thinking about God. They would stop and pray. They would quote Scripture to each other. Their minds, their hearts and their passion is God and building His kingdom.”

I think of the pastors of little churches in India that are being established. These men could have had jobs in the cities. They could have security and family. They have said, “No, we are going to go out to these villages where we know it is dangerous. We know some of our pastors who have helped plant these churches have already been persecuted. Some of them have already faced opposition, but they are laying it all on the line because the King has called them to serve and they are building the kingdom.

I have a good friend, Ted Esler. Ted was one of the first people in a missionary and training program that I helped start at our church in Minnesota twenty years ago. Ted and his wife Nettie were brand-new Christians at that time. They had come from families who weren't believers. They were so in awe of what God had done for them that Ted left a very good job with a software development company where he was being promoted about every six months. If he would have stayed with that, no doubt today he would have been president of the company.

But God laid on Ted and Nettie's hearts to go to Yugoslavia. They went to Yugoslavia at a time when Yugoslavia was literally coming apart at the seams. It was absolutely dangerous to be on a road or be anywhere in Yugoslavia. Ultimately God spoke to them and said, “I want you to go to Sarajevo. We remember it from the Olympics. At the time that Ted and Nettie took their four children into Sarajevo, there were snipers everywhere. It was dangerous to be out on the street; children were being shot out on the playground by snipers. The women back in our home church in Minnesota thought that Ted was just absolutely out of his mind taking his family into Sarajevo. In fact, the ladies' aid society sent him a letter and said, “If you don't get your family out of there, we are not going to send you our money anymore”—and by golly, they quit. But Ted didn't. Ted left a church in Sarajevo. Today God has him as the president of Pioneers USA, which is a great missionary organization. Ted's heart, passion and devotion is to the King and his kingdom.

And so the challenge for us is: What are you passionate about?

One of the motives we serve is to look back and see what God has done for us. We see the Church. We see this horn of David who came and took our sin. Out of our gratitude for God we say, “God, I want to serve You. I want to build Your kingdom. I want to know this God who did that.”

There is another motivation, I think. That is looking ahead to what God said He will do in the future. I would challenge you to use the picture of Revelation 21 and 22 to be a motivating factor as you lay it on the line for Jesus Christ—because some day the most incredible kingdom that could be imagined is going to come to earth with Jesus Christ, God Himself, in the very center of it. And you and I will have the opportunity to serve Him and love Him there forever.

Where is *your* passion?

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Last Saved On: 8/10/2005 2:33:00 PM  
Last Saved By: shansen  
Total Editing Time: 0 Minutes  
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As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 9  
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Number of Characters: 29,127 (approx.)