

A Booster Club for Jesus

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. NKJV

As some of you are aware our church completed what is called a church health survey. The survey is meant to show us our weakness as a church and let us know what areas we need to try to improve. There are eight areas that are measured. And they suggest that a church work on the area that is their lowest score. Passionate Spirituality was our lowest score. That means that if we hope to have success we cannot continue to have a low score in that area. This mornings message is meant to help us begin thinking about that and what we need to do.

Passion is not something that our society is short on. People expend great deals of money, time and effort on an array of activities. Sports is just one among many others. But one thing that I noticed is that most sports teams have a booster club.

- I. What do booster clubs do?
 - A. They promote the team
 1. They sell shirts, coats and just about anything you can put a name on.
 2. They put full page ads in the newspaper.
 3. They buy bill board space along the highway.
 4. They do their best to keep the team in front of their community, both individuals and the public in general.
 - B. They support the team.
 1. They attend all the games.
 2. They donate large sums of money to advance the team.
 3. They get other people to participate.
 4. They help buy equipment
 5. They give of their time tirelessly to see to it that the team doesn't lack anything.
 - C. They are very familiar with the players, coach and even the cheerleaders.
 1. They print programs
 2. They make sure the newspaper gets the story straight.

3. They know each player and may even know their position, and their stats.
- D. They know the game
1. They understand how the game is played
 2. Many know better than the coaches, so they say.
 3. They know all the rules, often better than the referees.
 4. They can tell you what the penalty is for each infraction.
 5. They watch the game intently and might even become excited.
 6. They watch so close that they often see what the referees don't see.
 7. And they are very zealous for the team, just cross them and find out.
- E. So I decided that what Jesus needs is a booster club.
1. I mean wouldn't you at least do as much for Jesus as the booster club does for the team?
 2. Isn't He worthy of all praise, honor and blessing.
 3. Rev 5:11-14

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice:

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
 To receive power and riches and wisdom,
 And strength and honor and glory and blessing !"

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

"Blessing and honor and glory and power
 Be to Him who sits on the throne,
 And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. NKJV

II. Only one is lasting

- A. I don't remember where my varsity jacket or letter are today.
1. They didn't even get my name right in the yearbook

- B. John Grisham's book "Bleachers" is a good book for high school sports enthusiast to read.
- C. But notice what Paul says in 2 Cor 3:1-3
1. Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? 2 You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; 3 clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart. NKJV
- D. Who taught:
1. Sandy Koufax to throw a baseball.
 2. Micky Mantle to swing a bat
 3. Bart Star to throw a football
 4. No one will ever know or even care.
- E. But God keeps track
1. Jesus said lay up treasure in heaven.
 2. 2 Cor 4:16-18
 - a. Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. NKJV
 3. 2 Tim 4:6-8
 - a. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. NKJV
 4. 1 Cor 9:24-27
 - a. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an

imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. NKJV

- b. There is a race to be run
- c. There is a need to prepare
- d. Winners will do all they can to win
- e. But the prizes are as different as life and death, heaven and hell.

III. Jesus is for today

- A. Now I can hear some people who think that Jesus is bound up in old books and never does anything today.
- B. If that is your case then you need to get connected to the Living Jesus.
- C. Christianity is not a past tense religion.
- D. They Holy Spirit still works powerfully in people today.
- E. Lives are turned around today.
- F. Prayers are answered today.
- G. People are delivered today.
- H. You can have a living relationship with the Living God.
- I. Heb 11:32-40

- 1. 32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again.
- 2. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.
- 3. 39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that

they should not be made perfect apart from us. NKJV

Passion tells people that you are alive. It speaks of joy and surety. It speaks of confidence and life.