



**MID-ATLANTIC FALL RETREAT  
SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2021  
HARVEY CEDARS BIBLE CONFERENCE**

**LIVING WITH A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST**



**Colossians 1:18  
Jesus Christ is the head of the body, the church...  
so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything!**



**2021 MEN'S FALL RETREAT  
LIVING WITH A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST**

**AGENDA (Zooming Sessions)**

**Friday, September 24**

8:00 pm           Worship/Teaching Session #1  
                      *Fuel to Ignite a Burning Passion for Christ (Part 1)*

                      Small Group Discussion Time

**Saturday, September 25**

9:15 am           Worship/Teaching Session #2  
                      *Fuel to Ignite a Burning Passion for Christ (Part 2)*

                      Break

10:45 am          Teaching Session #3  
                      *Fuel to Ignite a Burning Passion for Christ (Part 2 cont'd)*

                      Small Group Discussion Time

<p><b>NOTE: The group will dismiss for lunch and afternoon activities around noon and will reconvene this evening at 7:00 pm</b></p>
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7:00 pm           Worship/Teaching Session #4  
                      *Fuel to Ignite a Burning Passion for Christ (Part 3)*

                      Small Group Discussion Time

**Sunday, September 26**

9:15 am           Worship/Teaching Session #5  
                      *Fuel to Ignite a Burning Passion for Christ (Part 4)*

                      Small Group Discussion Time

                      Dismissal

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# **LIVING WITH A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST**

## **SESSION 1:**

### **FUEL TO IGNITE A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST (PART 1)**

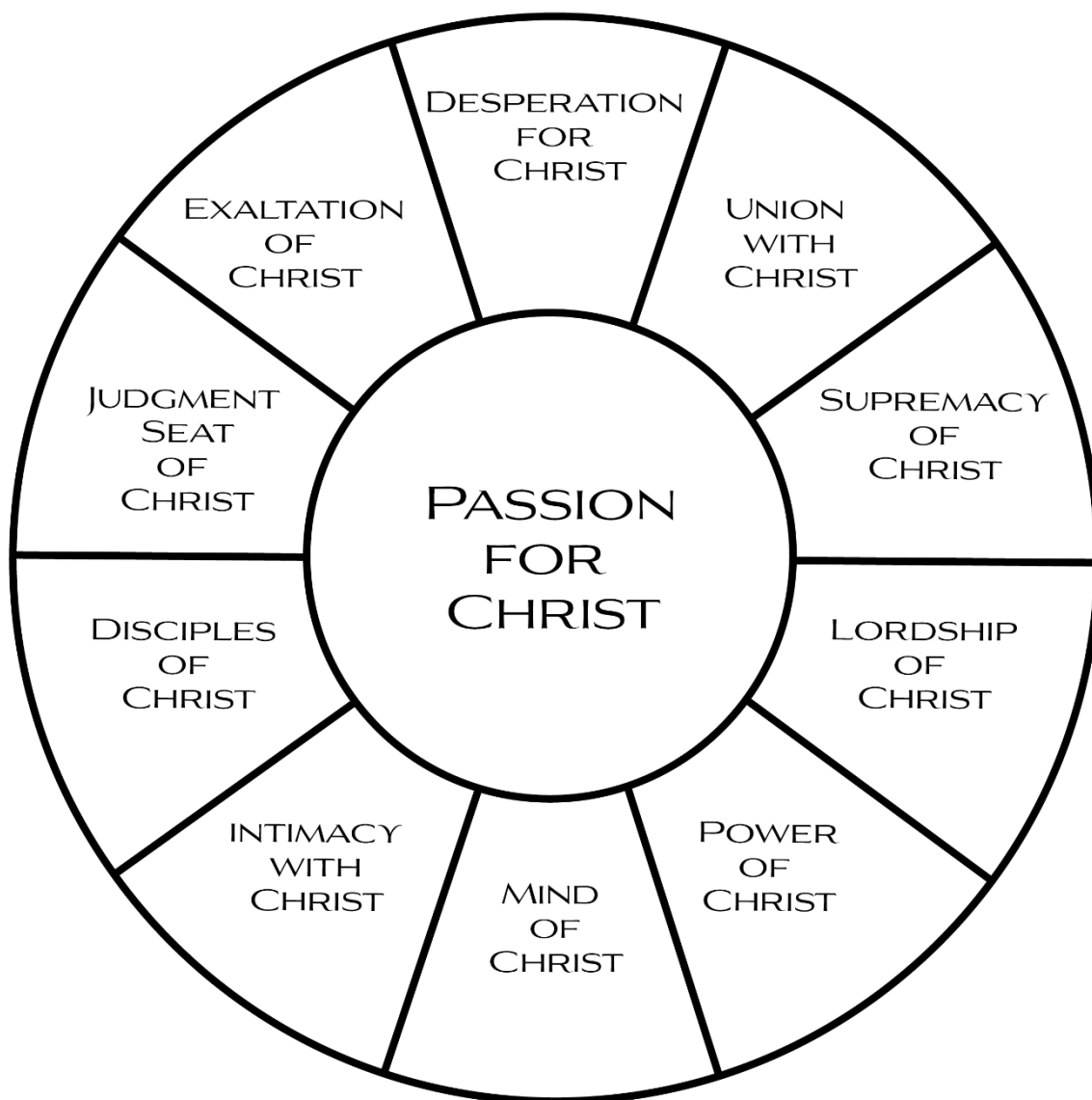
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**Retreat Theme: Living with a Burning Passion for Christ**  
**Session 1: Fuel to Ignite a Burning Passion for Christ (Part 1)**

**Introduction:** When the apostle Paul made the statement, “For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain” he put the entire Christian life in perspective. As the sun is at the center of our solar system, even so, the Lord Jesus Christ is to be central to our existence as we integrate Him into every area of our lives. Paul lived his Christian life as a Christ-Centered, Christ-Consumed, and Christ-Saturated individual with a burning passion to bring glory to Jesus Christ above and beyond anything else in his life (Philippians 1:20-21). In Colossians 1:18, in one brief phrase, he established the sovereign supremacy of Jesus Christ in our lives in the words, “So that in everything He might have the supremacy.” This simply means that at all times, and under all circumstances, the Lord Jesus Christ is to have “first place” in absolutely everything. The Christian life is a person driven life, and that person is the Lord Jesus Christ. Christianity is Christ—nothing more, nothing less!

We are tragically living in a period of church history where Jesus Christ has been “dethroned” in His church because Christianity has become about so many other things, and so many other people but Christ. As radical as it may sound, we are living in the age of Christ-less Christianity. The Lord of the church appears to be lost in His church. This retreat is about getting the Lord Jesus Christ back where He belongs—at the center of our lives, and at the center of our churches. The apostle Paul, like few other men, modeled what it means for a man to live with a burning passion for Jesus Christ. Throughout this retreat, we are going to consider ten Christ-Centered factors that fueled his passion for Jesus Christ. The purpose of this retreat is to ignite a burning passion in each of our lives for Jesus Christ. This will require us finding our identity, purpose, and ultimate destiny in our union with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

**TEN CHRIST-CENTERED FACTORS THAT FUEL  
A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST**



**CHRIST-CENTERED FACTOR #1:  
UTTER DESPERATION FOR CHRIST**

1. To what degree does Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of Romans 7:14-25 capture your ongoing and continuous struggles with indwelling sin, as he captures Paul's vulnerable disclosure of his ongoing and continuous struggles with sin in Romans 7:14-25?
  - a. Romans 7:14-16- I can anticipate the response that is coming: "I know that all God's commands are spiritual, but I'm not. Isn't this also your experience? Yes. I'm full of myself—after all, I've spent a long time in sin's prison. What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary. 17-20- But I need something more! For I know the law but still can't keep it, and the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. 21-23- It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge. 24- I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question? 25- The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.
  - b. Romans 7:24- Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from this body of death? 25- Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ point of living with a burning passion for Christ is coming to a place of utter desperation for Jesus Christ, where we acknowledge our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ in light of our inability to overcome sin in our own strength!

2. The expression, “Wretched man that I am!” and its \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Romans 7:24- Wretched man that I am!
4. Spiritual Passion Buster #1: Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_!
5. Romans 7:24- Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?
6. Romans 7:25- But thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
7. Like the apostle Paul, we must have clarity about our \_\_\_\_\_ deliverance from sin, and our ultimate destinies through our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - a. v.24- Who will set me free from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
  - b. Paul’s ultimate destiny in his glorified state consumed his being, and fueled his passion for Christ (1Cor. 2:9; Rom. 8:18; Rom.8:23; 1Cor. 15:53-57):

8. Like the apostle Paul, we must have clarity about our \_\_\_\_\_ deliverance from sin through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- a. v.25- Thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ!
  - b. “I am a man who stands in moment by moment need of the rescuing grace of my Redeemer Jesus Christ!”
9. The gospel of Jesus Christ is not just the \_\_\_\_\_ or the entrance point into God’s kingdom, but rather the \_\_\_\_\_ we are to walk every day!
10. A gospel-centered life is a life where we become as utterly desperate for Jesus Christ for our deliverance from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin, as we were at the moment of conversion for our deliverance from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.
11. The last expression in v.25- So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin, is a humble acknowledgement of the ongoing struggle with sin that \_\_\_\_\_ ends in this life.
12. Christ-Centered Factor #1: Our lives can be lived with a burning passion for Christ as we continually relate to Christ out of utter desperation in light of the fact that God is not into “flesh improvement!”



## **APPLICATION**

1. The “cry of spiritual wretchedness” is a reminder that all lasting spiritual change begins when we admit that we are the biggest problem in our lives, and that Jesus Christ is the ultimate solution to our biggest problem—which is us!
2. The “cry of spiritual wretchedness” is the humble acknowledgement that we all stand in moment by moment need of the rescuing grace of our Redeemer Jesus Christ, who alone can deliver us from our struggles with sin.
3. The “cry of spiritual wretchedness” is the reality that invites us to respond to the timeless invitation of Christ, who speaks the following words to us this weekend, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29- Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30- For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

## INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS

1. What expectations have you brought to this retreat that you are looking to God to fulfill in your life?

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2. To what degree can you personally relate to Paul's cries of anguish, brokenness, and exhaustion in the words, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

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3. How could an expanded view of the gospel that focuses on the fact that Christ has rescued us from the penalty of sin in the past, is rescuing us from the power of sin in the present, and will rescue us from the presence of sin in the future potentially transform your Christian life?

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4. What do you think the speaker was attempting to communicate through the expression, "The gospel is not just the door or the entry point into God's kingdom, but rather the path we are to walk every day?"

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5. How could "preaching the gospel to yourself" help you to have even greater victory in your Christian life?

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# **LIVING WITH A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST**

## **SESSIONS 2 & 3:**

### **FUEL TO IGNITE A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST (PART 2)**

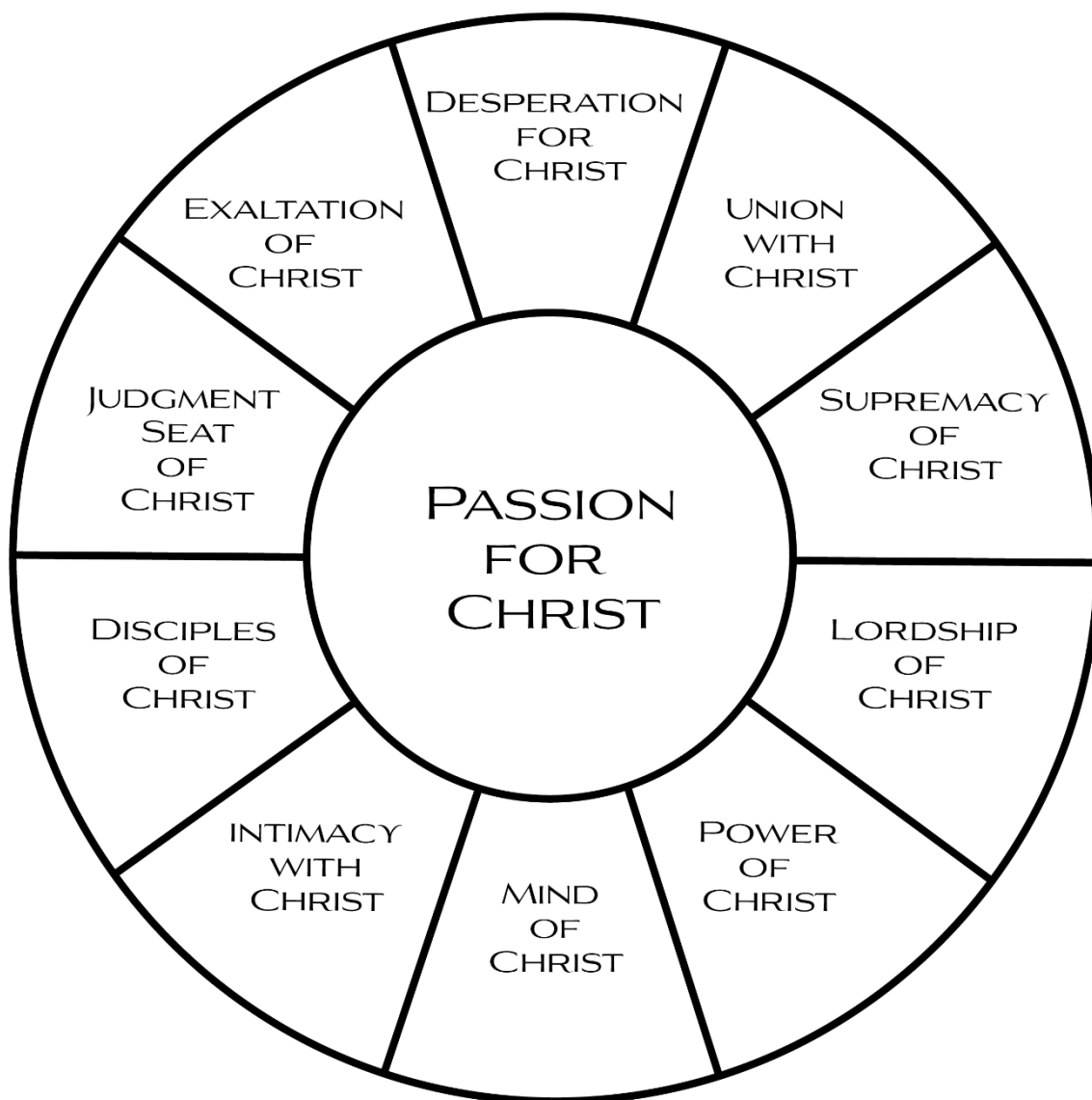
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**Retreat Theme:        Living with a Burning Passion for Christ**  
**Sessions 2 & 3:       Fuel to Ignite a Burning Passion for Christ (Part 2)**

**Introduction:** The single highest pursuit in the life of any man is the pursuit of a life that knows, experiences, loves, serves, obeys, proclaims, and glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. To live this kind of life is to live with a burning passion for Jesus Christ. This is the life the apostle Paul lived, and the life that God is calling each of us to live. We have invited the apostle Paul to this retreat to share 10 Christ-Centered factors that consumed his being, and that fueled his burning passion for Jesus Christ. In light of Paul's union with Christ in His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:1-5; Gal. 2:20), he identified his life and ministry as a conduit of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ (Col. 1:28-29). He acknowledged that the Christian faith is not about offering the world a set of insights and principles to live a better life, but rather a living and risen Savior, who is continually seeking to infuse our lives moment by moment with His resurrection power (Phil. 4:13).

Paul's burning passion for the centrality and supremacy of Jesus Christ caused him to conclude, "So that in everything He (Jesus Christ) might have the supremacy" (Col. 1:18). In the physical world, a solar eclipse is when the light of the sun is eclipsed, obscured, concealed, and blocked by the moon. In the church of Jesus Christ, and in many of our lives, a spiritual eclipse has resulted in the Lord Jesus Christ being eclipsed, obscured, concealed, and blocked by the countless challenges, struggles, and distractions in our lives. This retreat is an opportunity for each of us to give the Lord Jesus Christ first place in our lives, as the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to fuel a burning passion for Jesus Christ for the rest of our lives.

**TEN CHRIST-CENTERED FACTORS THAT FUEL  
A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST**



**CHRIST-CENTERED FACTOR #2:  
FINDING OUR IDENTITY IN OUR UNION WITH CHRIST**

*Galatians 2:20*

*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;  
and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,  
who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

1. A burning passion for Christ is fueled when our identity as Christian men is literally found in our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:1-11).
2. Galatians 2:20- I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live-
3. Galatians 2:20- And it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me-
4. Galatians 2:20- And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God-
5. Galatians 2:20- Who loved me and gave Himself up for me-
6. Spiritual Passion Buster #2: Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_!
7. Christ-Centered Factor #2: Our lives can be lived with a burning passion for Christ as we continually remind ourselves that our true identity is to be found in our union with Jesus Christ.

**CHRIST-CENTERED FACTOR #3:  
THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST**

1. In light of the current instability, volatility, and uncertainty of our world, we must affirm the supremacy of Jesus Christ as we \_\_\_\_\_ Him as the Sovereign Creator and Sustainer of the universe, and as the Sovereign Head of His church.
  
2. In Colossians 1:16-17 the apostle Paul acknowledges the supremacy of Jesus Christ in the following words: 16- For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth; visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him v.17- And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
  
3. Colossians 1:18- And He is also the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything (the supremacy...)
  
4. There is a major sense of concern, alarm, and angst about the state of our country and this world...
  
5. Spiritual Passion Buster #3: \_\_\_\_\_ !
  
6. Christ-Centered Factor #3: Our lives can be lived with a burning passion for Christ as we continually acknowledge His supremacy over all things, including our lives, in a spirit of worship.

**CHRIST-CENTERED FACTOR #4:  
THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST**

1. As a “slave” of Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul repeatedly acknowledged Christ as the sole \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of his life, who had completely purchased his life, motivating him to spend the rest of his life passionately seeking to serve, please, and obey Him (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Tit. 1:1; 2:14; Acts 20:28).
2. To understand Paul’s burning passion for Christ is to grasp that his life existed \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ as a man who “lived for the Lord, as one who belonged to the Lord” (Romans 14:8).
3. 1Corinthians 6:19- Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20- For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.
  - a. The immediate context: 1Cor. 6:18- Flee from sexual immorality.
  - b. v.19- you are not your own-
  - c. On what basis is Jesus Christ the Lord of our lives? v 20 – For you have been bought with a price-
  - d. What should be our response to what He has done for us? v 20 – Therefore glorify God in your body-
4. Spiritual Passion Buster #4: An unwillingness to \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lordship of Christ.
5. Christ-Centered Factor #4: Our lives can be lived with a consistent passion for Christ as we continually submit our wills to the Lordship of Christ reminding ourselves we are “His chosen people, His holy priesthood, His people who **belong to Him**, declaring His praise in light of the fact that He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light!” (1Pet. 2:9).



**CHRIST-CENTERED FACTOR #5:  
THE POWER OF CHRIST IS RELEASED IN HUMAN WEAKNESS**

1. The extraordinary spiritual influence and impact of Paul's life was rooted in his passionate belief that the resurrection power of Jesus Christ was released in his life through human \_\_\_\_\_, rather than through human strength.
  
2. 2Corinthians 12:7- And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan buffet me—to keep me from exalting myself! 8- Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9- And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10- Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
  
3. The context of 2Corinthians 12:
  
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of divine strength being released in human weakness for life and ministry is a vital part of the fuel that drove Paul's passion for Christ:
  - a. 2Cor. 12:9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you” -
  
  - b. 2Cor. 12:9- “For my power is perfected in weakness”-
  
  - c. 2Cor. 12:9- Most gladly, therefore I will rather boast about my weaknesses-
  
  - d. 2Cor. 12:9- So that the power of Christ may dwell in me-
  
  - e. 2Cor. 12:9- So that the power of Christ may dwell in me-

5. The supernatural empowerment we observe through Paul's life and ministry are fueled by His total preoccupation with the indwelling \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ in his life 24/7/365!
6. 2Cor. 12:10- Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
7. The following passages support Paul's supernatural approach to the Christian life and his contention that the power of Christ flows in human weaknesses:
  - a. Phil. 3:10- I want to know Christ, and the power of His resurrection...
  - b. Phil. 4:13- I can do all things/everything through Christ who gives me strength.
  - c. Col. 1:28- We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we can present every man complete in Christ. 29- For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.
8. Spiritual Passion Buster #5: Self-reliant \_\_\_\_\_!
9. Christ-Centered Factor #5: Our lives can be lived with a consistent passion for Christ as we humbly lay aside our sufficient pride to allow His divine strength to flow through our human weaknesses.

## INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS

1. How can applying the words “Christ lives in me” to your life, relationships, and responsibilities positively impact how you approach and live your life?

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2. In what ways can our understanding of the sovereign supremacy of Christ as the creator, sustainer, and Lord of the universe bring peace and comfort to our lives in the midst of the chaos that exists in our world?

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3. What would it look like to give the Lord Jesus Christ first place in every area of our lives? Be specific in your responses.

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4. How should the reality that Jesus Christ has purchased our lives through the shedding of His blood upon the cross impact how we live the rest of our lives?

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5. What is your personal reaction as a man to the biblical principle that God’s divine strength is released in human weakness, rather than in human strength?

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# **LIVING WITH A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST**

## **SESSION 4:**

### **FUEL TO IGNITE A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST (PART 3)**

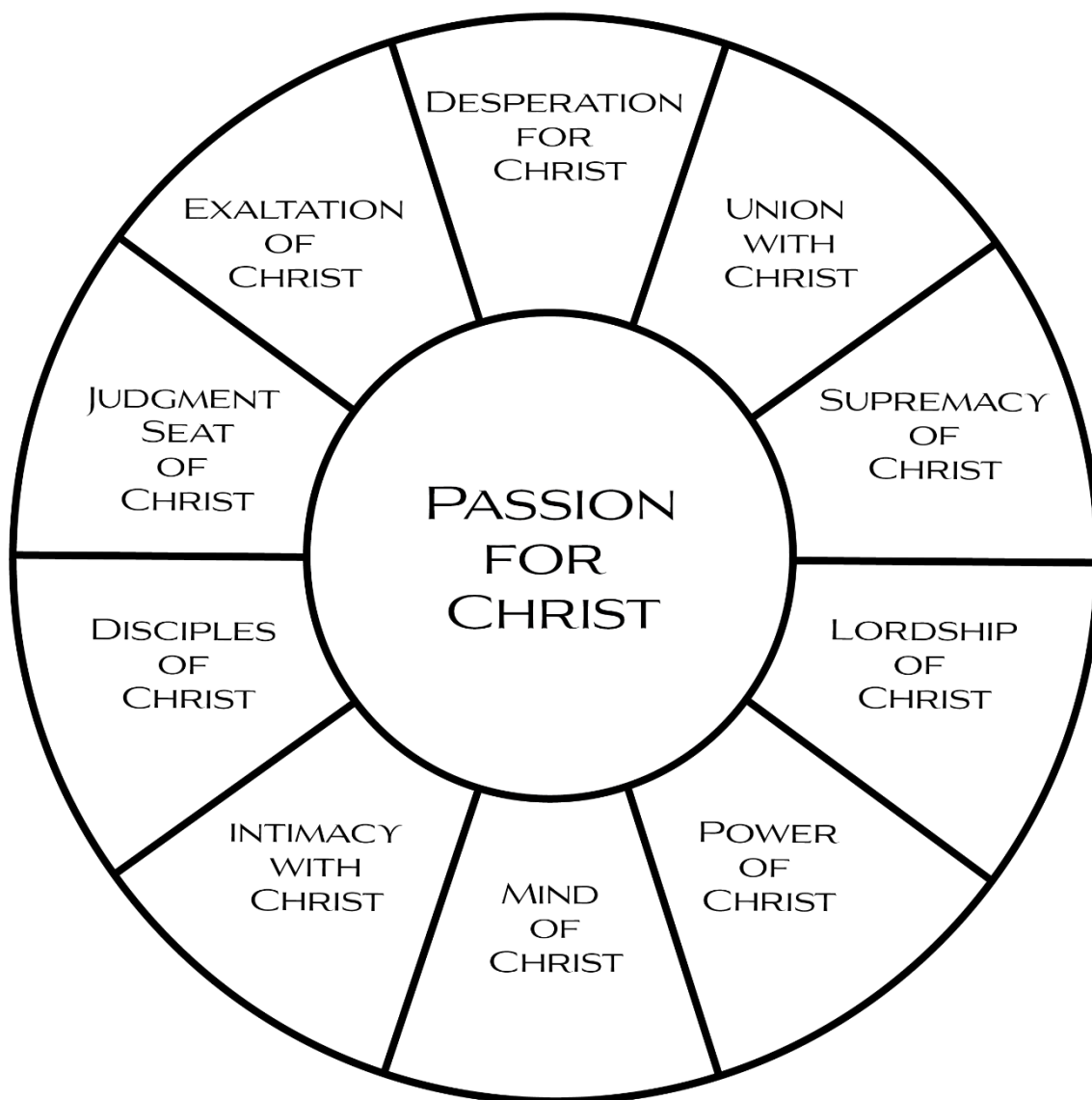
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**Retreat Theme: Living with a Burning Passion for Christ**  
**Session 4: Fuel to Ignite a Burning Passion for Christ (Part 3)**

**Introduction:** Vince Lombardi, the legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers, was one of the most passionate men who ever coached professional football. His Hall of Fame quarterback Bart Starr made the following comments about what his coach taught him about the meaning of passion, “I wasn’t mentally tough before I met Coach Lombardi. I hadn’t reached the point where I refused to accept second best. To win, you have to have a certain amount of mental toughness. He taught me that you must have a flaming desire to win. It’s got to dominate all of your waking hours. It can’t ever wane. It’s got to glow in you all the time.” Passion—the kind that causes some to excel beyond anyone else—dulls one’s sense of fatigue, pain, and the need for pleasure, or even well-being. Passion leads some to pay incredible prices to reach a goal of some sort.

An examination of the apostle Paul’s life reveals that he had a flaming desire to win, which is why he spoke of the Christian life as a race that was to be “run in such a way that you may win” (1Cor. 9:24), and why he was relentlessly “pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:14). It could be argued that the Lord Jesus Christ dominated all of his waking hours, which is why he commands others to “keep on seeking the things above” (Col. 3:1), and to “keep on setting our minds on the things above” (Col. 3:2), in light of the fact that we have been raised up together with Christ in His resurrection. His passion for Christ rarely waned, and it appeared to glow in him all of the time, in light of his testimony that “I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.” (Acts 20:24)

**TEN CHRIST-CENTERED FACTORS THAT FUEL  
A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST**



**CHRIST-CENTERED FACTOR #6:  
THE MIND OF CHRIST**

1. The apostle Paul lived with a \_\_\_\_\_ mentality which is why he encourages us “to put on the armor of light” (Rom. 13:12), “to pick up the weapons of righteousness” (2Cor. 6:7), “to put on the whole armor of God” (Eph. 6:11;13), and “to endure hardship as good soldiers of Jesus Christ” (2Tim. 2:3).
2. In 2Corinthians 10:3-5, he highlights that our minds are the \_\_\_\_\_ upon which our spiritual battles are fought, and the place where our spiritual passion is either ignited or extinguished.
3. 2Cor. 10:3- For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh 4- for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses 5- We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God and we are taking every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ.
4. The Spirit of God and the Word of God give us the ability to live with “the mind of Christ” (2Cor. 2:15), fueling our passion for Jesus Christ one \_\_\_\_\_ at a time!
5. Romans 12:2- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
6. Spiritual Passion Buster #6: \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God!
7. Christ-Centered Factor #6: Our lives can be lived with a burning passion for Christ as we continually immerse our lives in biblical truth, while disciplining our minds to take every one of our thoughts captive, making them obedient and pleasing to Christ.

### CHRIST-CENTERED FACTOR #7: INTIMACY WITH CHRIST

1. The supreme \_\_\_\_\_ in Paul's life was his pursuit of an intimate first-love relationship (Rev. 2:4) with the Lord Jesus Christ, where Christ became the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ of his life, and the one who was worthy of Paul counting the loss of all things (Phil. 3:1-9).
2. Philippians 3:10- I want to know Christ, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.
3. Philippians 3:10- I want to know Christ-
4. Philippians 3:10 in the Amplified Bible: "For my determined purpose is that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly, and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection which it exerts over believers, and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed in spirit into His likeness even to His death."
5. In his book *Pleasures Evermore*, Sam Storms argues, "The key to holiness is falling in love with Jesus Christ. How do you fight the pleasure of sin? I'll tell you: with another pleasure. Holiness is not attained, at least not in any lasting, life-changing way, merely through prohibitions, threats, fear, or shame-based appeals. Holiness is attained by believing in, trusting, banking on, resting in, savoring, and cherishing God's promise of a superior happiness that comes only by falling in love with Christ. The power that the pleasures of sin exert on the human soul will ultimately be overcome only by the superior power of the pleasure of knowing and being known, loving and being loved by God in Christ." Sam Storms continues by quoting John Piper, "Sin is what you do when your heart is not satisfied in God." He concludes, "The fight against sin, therefore, is the fight to stay satisfied in God."



6. In John 14:15; 21 and 23 the Lord Jesus Christ reminds us that our love for Christ is to be measured by our \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ: “If you love Me, you will keep my commandments” v.15; he who has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me” v.21; If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word” v.23.
7. Spiritual Passion Buster #7: Believing the \_\_\_\_\_ that there is greater pleasure in sin, than there is in an intimate love relationship with Jesus Christ!
8. Christ-Centered Factor #7: Our lives can be lived with a burning passion for Christ as we make Christ the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives, and purpose to know Him \_\_\_\_\_ through all of the events, people, and circumstances that enter our lives.

**CHRIST-CENTERED FACTOR #8:  
LIVING AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST**

1. To understand the burning passion of the apostle Paul for Jesus Christ is to grasp that his entire existence was tied into his convictions that he possessed the single greatest \_\_\_\_\_ in this world (making disciples of Jesus Christ), the single greatest \_\_\_\_\_ in this world (the gospel of Jesus Christ), and the single greatest \_\_\_\_\_ in this world (the glory and exaltation of Jesus Christ).
  
2. Matthew 28:18- And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19- Go therefore and make disciples of all of the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20- teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
  
3. 1Thessalonians 2:8- Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.
  
4. Acts 20:24- But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the grace of God.
  
5. Spiritual Passion Buster #8: Losing sight of our \_\_\_\_\_ in life!
  
6. Christ-Centered Factor #8: Our lives can be lived with a burning passion for Christ as we live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ, who are making disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the gospel of Christ to our world, radically identifying ourselves with Christ, through a life of faithful obedience to Christ!

## **APPLICATION**

1. Living with a burning passion for Jesus Christ will require coming to the radical place of acknowledging that what physical food is to our physical bodies, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is to our spirits and souls.
2. Living with a burning passion for Jesus Christ will require coming to the radical place of making the Lord Jesus Christ the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ of our hearts, with no competing rivals!
3. Living with a burning passion for Jesus Christ will require coming to the radical place of finding our \_\_\_\_\_ in life in God's call for us to become disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples of Jesus Christ.

## INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS

1. What is the relationship that exists between a Christian man's exposure to the Word of God, and his level of passion for Jesus Christ?

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2. What are some of the obstacles that contribute to Christian men neglecting the Word of God, and how can some of these obstacles be overcome?

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3. What is the difference between intellectual knowledge and experiential knowledge, and how is that distinction relevant to Paul's passionate pursuit of Christ in Philippians 3:10?

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4. React to the statement, "The key to holiness is falling in love with Jesus Christ."

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5. What is your definition of a disciple of Jesus Christ, and do you consider yourself to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

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6. Why have so many Christians and churches lost sight of the priority of making disciples of Jesus Christ?

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# **LIVING WITH A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST**

## **SESSION 5:**

### **FUEL TO IGNITE A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST (PART 4)**

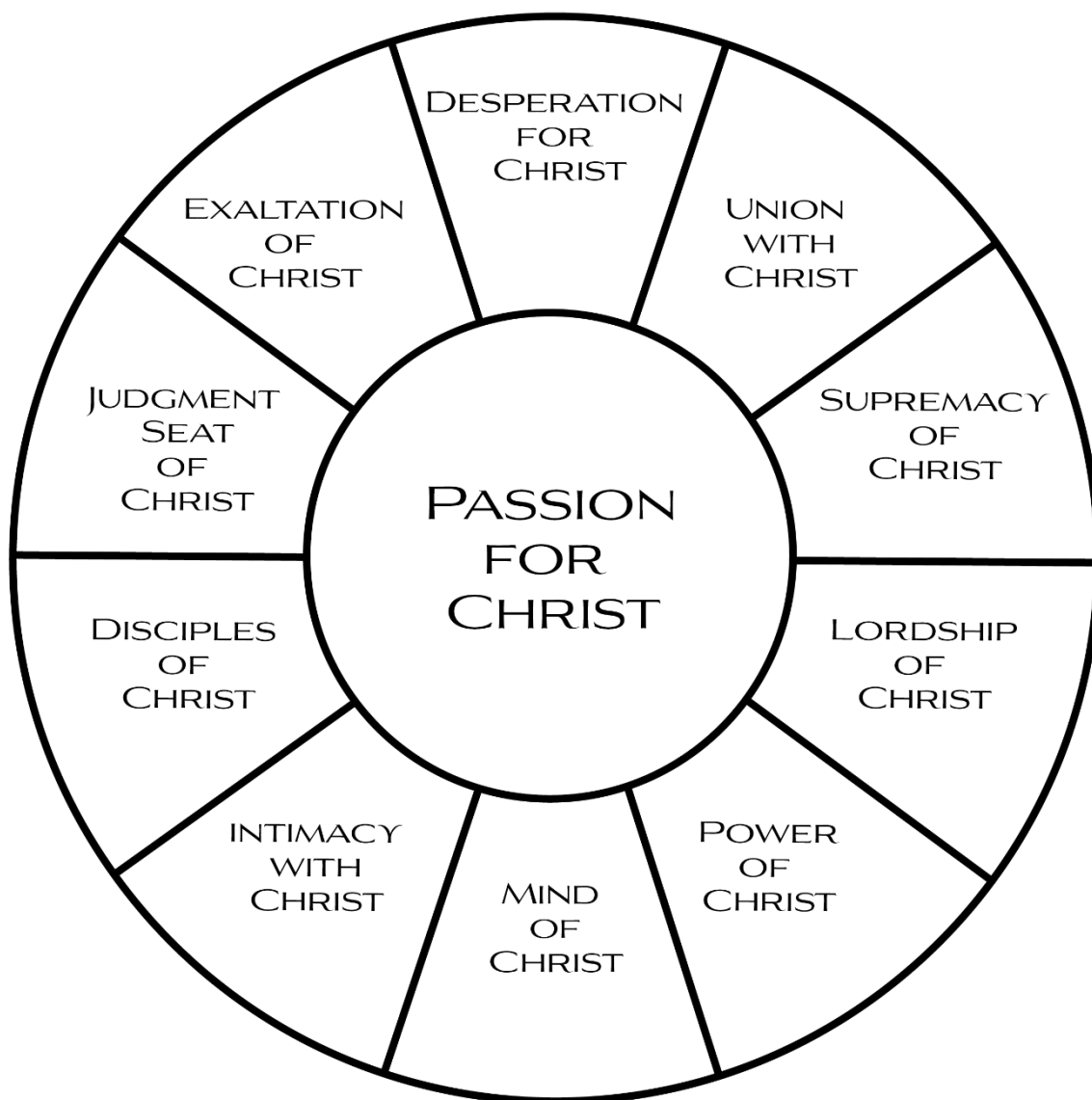
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**Retreat Theme:        Living with a Burning Passion for Christ**  
**Session 5:            Fuel to Ignite a Burning Passion for Christ (Part 4)**

**Introduction:** The unmistakable message that has been seamlessly woven throughout this entire weekend is that the Christian life is primarily a Christ-Centered life. Those who identify themselves as disciples of Jesus Christ, are to be living their lives with a burning passion for the one who is their Lord and Savior, and their coming King. We have been sitting at the feet of the apostle Paul, as the Spirit of God has been illuminating our minds with the Christ-Centered factors that fueled Paul's passion for Christ. These timeless Christ-Centered factors have the potential to fuel a burning passion in each of us for the rest of our lives.

Our Lord Jesus Christ established the relationally-oriented and driven nature of the Christian life in Revelation 2:4, where he called the church of Ephesus to repentance when he rebuked and admonished them because they had forsaken, departed, and left their "first love" relationship with Him. A radical departure had occurred in their relationship with Christ. They did not lose their salvation, but rather their intimacy with Christ, and their joy in Christ. In the many distractions of life and ministry, other things and other people had become more important to them than Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ was no longer the supreme and ultimate object of their love, affection, devotion, and worship. Their relationship with Christ deteriorated into a loveless orthodoxy that resulted in performance-driven service for Christ, rather than ministry that was driven by their love for Christ. Is it possible that the major reason God led many of us to this retreat is because He wants us to leave this retreat with a renewed and burning passion for Jesus Christ as a result of recapturing a "first-love" relationship with Him again?

**TEN CHRIST-CENTERED FACTORS THAT FUEL  
A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST**



**CHRIST-CENTERED FACTOR #9:  
OUR ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

1. The Judgment Seat of Christ ignited Paul's passion to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ at all times, in light of his future \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ for his life and ministry in the present.
  
2. 2Corinthians 5:9- Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 10- For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done whether good or bad.
  
3. The Judgment Seat of Christ:
  - a. Is not a judgment that raises the possibility of eternal \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ in the life of a believer because we have been justified (Rom. 5:1), and removed from ever experiencing eternal condemnation (Rom. 8:1; 35-39; Jn. 3:18; 5:24), and because we have been chosen, adopted as sons, redeemed, and completely forgiven "in Christ" (Eph. 1:4-7).
  
  - b. Is a future reality for all true believers where our lives will be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ leading to either eternal \_\_\_\_\_, or eternal \_\_\_\_\_ (1Cor. 3:14-15).
  
4. The reality of future judgment and accountability should fuel a burning passion in our hearts to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ (2Cor. 5:9), while fueling a sobering sense of answerability to be faithful \_\_\_\_\_ of all that God has entrusted to us for His glory.
  
5. 2Corinthians 5:9- Therefore we also have as our ambition whether at home or absent to be pleasing to Him (Jesus Christ).



6. 2Corinthians 5:10- For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad-
  - a. v.10- For we must all appear-
  - b. v.10- For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ-
  - c. v.10- That each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body-
  - d. v.10- According to what he has done, whether good or bad-
7. 1Corinthians 3:10- According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11- For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12- Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13- each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. 14- If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15- If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.
8. Spiritual Passion Buster #9: A lack of \_\_\_\_\_ accountability to Christ, and \_\_\_\_\_ accountability with others.
9. Christ-Centered Factor #9: Our lives can be lived with a burning passion for Christ as we continually seek to please Him in every area of our lives, in light of our ultimate accountability to Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**CHRIST-CENTERED FACTOR #10:  
THE GLORY AND EXALTATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

1. To grasp the burning passion for Christ that existed in the spirit of the apostle Paul is to comprehend that his “true north” in life was the \_\_\_\_\_, exaltation, \_\_\_\_\_, veneration, and \_\_\_\_\_ of His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
2. Philippians 1:20- According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21- For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
3. The context of Philippians 1:20-21:
4. Phil. 1:20- According to my earnest expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in anything but with all boldness...
5. Phil. 1:20- Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death-
6. 1Corinthians 10:31- Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
7. Philippians 1:20- According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21- For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
8. Spiritual Passion #10: Failing to grasp the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives.
9. Christ-Centered Factor #10: Our lives can be lived with a consistent passion for Christ as we continually remind ourselves that the ultimate purpose of our lives is the glory and exaltation of Jesus Christ.

## APPLICATION

1. Our ultimate response to this retreat is to respond to the Lord Jesus Christ who invites us to respond to his timeless invitation to spend the rest of our lives cultivating an intimate love relationship with Him!
  - a. Rev. 3:20- Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.
  - b. Colossians 1:18- So that He Himself (Jesus Christ) will have first place in everything!
2. This retreat will impact us spiritually for the rest of our lives, as we discipline our lives with the supernatural assistance, and empowerment of the Holy Spirit to apply the following 10 Christ-Centered factors to our lives on a daily basis:  
  
#1: Utter Desperation for Christ  
  
#2: Finding Our Identity in Our Union with Christ  
  
#3: The Supremacy of Christ  
  
#4: The Lordship of Christ  
  
#5: The Power of Christ Released in Human Weakness  
  
#6: The Mind of Christ  
  
#7: Intimacy with Christ  
  
#8: Living as Disciples of Christ  
  
#9: Our Accountability at the Judgment Seat of Christ  
  
#10: The Glory and Exaltation of Jesus Christ
3. The post-retreat materials that follow this session will provide you with opportunities to apply the 10 Christ-Centered factors that fuel a burning passion for Christ to your life as an individual, or in a small group setting with other brothers in Christ. As this retreat comes to a conclusion, it marks a fresh start, and a new beginning for many of us spiritually as we choose to give the Lord Jesus Christ first place in every single area of our lives!
4. Decision: By the grace of God, the resurrection power of Jesus Christ, and the enablement of God's Spirit, I am making a decision in this moment to give the Lord Jesus Christ first place in my life (Colossians 1:18), with a desire to cultivate a burning passion for Him for the rest of my life. Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## **ENCOURAGING AND EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER**

### **INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS**

1. Is there anything on your heart that you would like to share with others by way of encouragement before we end this retreat?
2. Is there anything on your heart that you would like to share with others by way of challenge or exhortation before we end this retreat?
3. Is there anything on your heart that you would like to share with others about what God has spoken to you about this weekend from His Word?

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**LIVING WITH A BURNING PASSION FOR CHRIST**

**POST-RETREAT:  
PRACTICAL APPLICATION EXERCISES**

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**2021 CBMC Fall Retreat**  
**“Living with a Burning Passion for Christ”**  
**Post-Retreat Practical Application Exercises**

**Introduction:** This material consists of a series of practical exercises that are designed to help men who attended the 2021 CBMC Fall Retreat to apply the biblical principles that were presented throughout the retreat to their lives. These exercises can be worked on individually, one-on-one with another individual, or in a small group setting. This retreat focused upon 10 Christ-Centered factors that fueled Paul’s burning passion for Jesus Christ. These 10 Christ-Centered factors, when applied to our lives, will fuel a burning passion for Jesus Christ for the rest of our lives.

**Practical Application Exercise #1**  
**Seeing the Big Picture**

1. **Retreat Synopsis:** The apostle Paul lived with a burning passion for Jesus Christ like few other men. We limited our exploration of the biblical text throughout the retreat to the epistles of Paul, where we focused upon ten prominent Christ-Centered factors that fueled his burning passion for Christ. His burning passion for Christ produced a remarkable spirit of determination and perseverance even though his life was filled with continuous opposition, persecution, suffering, and hardship. With each Christ-Centered factor that we explored that fueled his passion for Christ, we also noted “passion busters” that have the potential to diminish our passion for Christ. The following chart captures both the ten Christ-Centered factors that fuel passion for Christ, and the corresponding passion busters that diminish our passion for Christ. Our first application exercise is designed to help us step back from our retreat experience to see the “big picture” as it relates to the factors that fuel our passion for Christ, and those that diminish our passion for Christ.

<b>Christ-Centered Factors that Fuel our Passion for Christ</b>	<b>Passion-Busters that Diminish our Passion for Christ</b>
1. Utter Desperation for Christ	1. Spiritual Weariness
2. Finding Our Identity in Our Union with Christ	2. Spiritual Amnesia
3. The Supremacy of Christ	3. Misplaced Worship
4. The Lordship of Christ	4. Lack of Submission to the Lordship of Christ
5. The Power of Christ Released in Weakness	5. Self-Reliant Pride
6. The Mind of Christ	6. Neglecting the Word of God
7. Intimacy with Christ	7. Believing the Lies of Sin and Pleasure
8. Living as Disciples of Christ	8. Losing Sight of Our Mission in Life
9. The Judgment Seat of Christ	9. Lack of Accountability
10. The Glory and Exaltation of Christ	10. Failing to Grasp Life’s Ultimate Purpose

2. Of the 10 Christ-Centered factors that fuel a man's passion for Christ, what are the top two that you believe most influence your life and passion for Christ?

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3. Of the 10 Christ-Centered factors that fuel a man's passion for Christ, what are the top two that you believe need to be more intentionally integrated into your life?

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4. Of the 10 Passion Busters that have the potential to diminish a man's passion for Christ, what are the top two that most need to be eliminated from your life?

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5. As a result of participating in this retreat, what was your major takeaway from the retreat that you believe is going to contribute to your spiritual growth, and an increased passion for Jesus Christ in your relationship with Him?

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6. If you are working through these application exercises with another brother in Christ, or in a group setting, record what the major takeaways were from others who attended the retreat below:

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7. In what way can this exercise contribute to you living with a burning passion for Jesus Christ?

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**Practical Application Exercise #2**  
**The Three Major Questions Every Man Must Ask and Answer**

1. Observation: There were three major questions that were continually woven into the retreat as we explored Paul's ten Christ-Centered factors that fueled his passion for Christ. These three questions shaped Paul's perspective on his relationship with Jesus Christ, his own identity as a man, the reason for his existence, and ultimately his destiny when the time came for him to breathe his last breath. Those three questions were:

- The question of identity: Who am I?
- The question of purpose: What is my purpose in life?
- The question of destiny: What is my ultimate destiny in life when I die?

2. Why is it so critically necessary for a man to personally answer these three questions in the course of a man's life?

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3. Have you adequately answered these questions in your own life?

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4. Why is the Word of God the only reliable source and authority to answer these questions?

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5. As you review the 10 Christ-Centered factors that fueled Paul's passion for Christ, how many of them were directly related to the questions that relate to a man's identity, purpose, and destiny?

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6. In what way can this exercise contribute to you living with a burning passion for Jesus Christ?

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**Practical Application Exercise #3**  
**Wretched Man that I Am!**

1. Why is the “cry of spiritual wretchedness” (Wretched man that I am!), the necessary starting point for a man who wants to live his life with a burning passion for Jesus Christ?

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2. Mark quoted Paul Tripp’s autobiographical statement about his approach to the Christian life a number of times throughout the retreat, “I am a man who stands in moment by moment need of the rescuing grace of my Redeemer Jesus Christ.” What do you believe that statement means, and how could grasping it potentially transform your Christian life?

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3. The expression, “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord” in Romans 7:25 speaks of both our ultimate deliverance from sin in the future, and our present deliverance from sin in the present through the presence and power of Christ. What is your understanding of what this means, and how can both the future and present realities of the deliverance we have in Christ encourage and empower you in your Christian walk each day?

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4. The point was made that the gospel is a path we walk every day not simply the entry point into God’s kingdom. In light of the fact that Christ delivers us from the power of sin, what benefit is there to a Christian preaching the gospel to themselves?

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5. In what way can this exercise contribute to you living with a burning passion for Jesus Christ?

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**Practical Application Exercise #4**  
**Union with Christ, The Supremacy of Christ, The Lordship of Christ**  
**and Divine Strength through Human Weakness**

1. How could living with a conscious awareness of the fact that the living, risen, and omnipotent Lord Jesus Christ “lives in you” (Gal. 2:20) impact the way you respond to the people, events, and circumstances of your life?  

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2. What impact should the fact that we have been completely forgiven in Christ through our union with Christ have upon the rest of our lives knowing that we will never face eternal condemnation as children of God (Romans 8:1)?  

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3. On an emotional level, how can our knowledge that Jesus Christ is the Sovereign Creator, Sustainer (Col. 1:16-17), and coming Judge of the universe (Phil. 2:9-11), bring emotional stability and peace to our lives?  

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4. In light of the fact that according to 1Corinthians 6:19-20, as Christian men, our lives are not our own, what is your interpretation of the statement that was made at the retreat, “The Lordship of Christ makes a Christian man a steward of everything, but an owner of nothing?”  

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5. Why is Paul’s statement that the divine power of Jesus Christ is released in human weakness (2Cor. 12:9-10), so counter-cultural (opposed to the prevailing norm of our culture), and so counter-intuitive (contrary to what one would intuitively expect) of how a man is to function in this world?  

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6. In what way can this exercise contribute to you living with a burning passion for Jesus Christ?  

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**Practical Application Exercise #5**  
**The Mind of Christ, Intimacy with Christ, and Disciples of Christ**

1. Why must every Christian man live with a “wartime mentality” and develop the discipline of “taking every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ” (2Cor. 10:3-5)?

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2. What is the difference between intellectual knowledge and experiential knowledge, and what exactly do you believe Paul is seeking to communicate through the purpose statements in Philippians 3:10, “I want to know Christ, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death?”

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3. How would you personally define what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ?

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4. The following statements were made at the retreat:

- “We possess the single greatest mission in this world, which is the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.”
- “We possess the single greatest message in this world, which is the gospel of Jesus Christ.”
- “We possess the single greatest motive in this world, which is the glory of God.”
- Why should the reality of these three statements lead us to live the rest of our lives with a burning passion for Jesus Christ?

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5. In what way can this exercise contribute to you living with a burning passion for Jesus Christ?

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**Practical Application Exercise #6**  
**The Judgment Seat of Christ and The Glory and Exaltation of Jesus Christ**

1. Why do you believe the apostle Paul expressed that the consuming ambition of his life was to “please Christ” in 2Corinthians 5:9, before highlighting his accountability to Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ in 2Corinthians 5:10?  

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2. In what ways does our future accountability to Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ bring meaning to every one of our thoughts, attitudes, words, choices, decisions, and relationships in the present?  

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3. In an age of victimization, where our culture has lost the concept of assuming personal responsibility for one’s life, how does our future encounter with Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ help us to assume personal responsibility for our lives, while helping us to cultivate a spirit of accountability in our lives?  

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4. Why might you believe, along with the apostle Paul, that the glory, exaltation, and honor of Jesus Christ is the single highest purpose and motivation of a man’s life?  

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5. In practical terms, what do you believe it means for “Christ to be exalted in my body” (Philippians 1:20)?  

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6. In what can this exercise contribute to you living with a burning passion for Jesus Christ?  

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**Practical Application Exercise #7**  
**The Christ-Centered Epistles of Paul**

1. The epistles of the apostle Paul were the biblical foundation of this entire retreat. He obviously lived his life as a Christ-Centered, Christ-Consumed, and Christ-Saturated individual. His burning passion for the Lord Jesus Christ was the single highest priority of his life that drove his entire existence.
2. Challenge: Over the next few months, read the epistles of Paul with the purpose of observing the Centrality of Jesus Christ in his life and existence. The following charts are designed to help you on this journey through God's Word, and in particular, the epistles of Paul over the next few months.

<b>The Epistle of Paul to the Romans</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>

<b>The Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians (1Corinthians)</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>

<b>The Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians (2Corinthians)</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>

<b>The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>

<b>The Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>

<b>The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>

<b>The Epistle of Paul to the Colossians</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>

<b>The Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians (1Thessalonians)</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>

<b>The Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians (2Thessalonians)</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>

<b>The Epistle of Paul to Timothy (1Timothy)</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>

<b>The Epistle of Paul to Timothy (2Timothy)</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>



<b>The Epistle of Paul to Titus</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>

<b>The Epistle of Paul to Philemon</b>	
<b>Christ-Centered Passages</b>	<b>Practical Application to My Life</b>