

## BEING PASSIONATE ABOUT SOMETHING

When we were on vacation in Las Vegas back in August there were many signs displaying the Formula One Grand Prix race that would be taking place in November. I was told by a resident how some of the major hotels on the Las Vegas strip would be charging at least one million dollars a night for rooms providing views of the actual racecourse. As crazy as this amount seemed I knew some people would actually pay this price for access to such a room.

When the Las Vegas Grand Prix weekend finally came around we were kind of anxious to see it. The race did not start until 1:00 in the morning our time so with having church the next day I did not stay up to watch it. My teenage daughter stayed up to watch it and loved every minute of it. What I did not know at the time is a passion would begin to ignite in her for Formula One racing.

During the course of the next week, she began doing research on various teams and their drivers. She even began watching a television series that has been done on Formula One racing. The very next Sunday was the final Formula One race of the season. The drivers and their teams had left Las Vegas and were now in Abu Dhabi. The race was to start at 8:00 a.m. and as the time got closer, I was not sure whether to wake my daughter or not. If you have ever tried to wake up a teenager, you know how risky it can be.

Thankfully, I did not have to take on this challenge. Five minutes before the race started, I heard her alarm go off and her feet hit the floor. Her passion for Formula One racing won out over sleeping in on a Sunday morning. Her favourite driver did not win but she was glad to have been able to watch it, and cannot wait for the next season of F1 racing to begin.

It has been interesting to see her passion for racing take off so quickly. Seeing this reminded me how we tend to be the same way whenever we become passionate about something. The thing we become passionate about begins to garner more of our attention, time, and energy. This can happen too when it comes to matters of faith and our relationship with God.

As a pastor it is always wonderful to see a new believer become passionate about learning about God and their faith. Maybe we had this kind of passion

when we first became believers. Over time some people may begin to lose the passion they once had. I will sometimes ask somebody if they still do the activities they once enjoyed so much, only to find out something else has taken over their focus. This tendency sometimes happens in our relationship with God too, where the passion we once had for Him begins to fade.

Scripture reminds us how Jesus notices when this begins to happen. When Jesus saw this happening amongst believers in the Church in Laodicea, He said to them:

**I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! (Revelations 3:15)**

Jesus went on to describe their faith as becoming like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold. Somewhere along the line these believers had lost their passion and fire for the Lord they first displayed. This happened with their faith and maybe we have allowed it to happen in us as well. Being an avid coffee drinker, I prefer the taste of coffee when it is piping hot as opposed to being just lukewarm. If it starts becoming lukewarm, I will often put my cup in the microwave to heat it back up.

As we see here Jesus prefers His followers to have a faith that is heated up and passionate for Him as opposed to being lukewarm. If we have allowed our passion for Jesus to become lukewarm, this season of Advent would be a perfect time for us to get it heated back up to His and our satisfaction. By singing the familiar hymns of this season, experiencing once again the stories leading to our Saviour's birth, and seeing the passion in the likes of Mary and Joseph doing what God was asking of them we will find that passion again we once had for Him.

It is fun when we become passionate about certain things. I know my daughter is experiencing a lot of joy from this newfound passion of hers. May we give ourselves joy and blessedness by finding our passion for the Lord once again and maintaining it.

***Keep safe and God bless***

***Pastor Dean***