



# Newsletter

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Up Words # 23

## HEAT WAVE



Though this past week's rains and lower temperatures have helped, our city and state have been affected by one of the hottest and driest summers in history. Temperatures have soared above 100 over a dozen times while monthly rainfall dwindled to only a fraction of an inch in June and July. Agronomists estimate that Indiana's crop yields will fall by at least 25%. In a summer of burn and water bans; when fireworks are forbidden and sprinklers go unused, everyone would say it's hot.

So when thinking about our heat wave my attention turned to thoughts about our passions. What about the heat of passion? That phrase is often used to describe lusts and godless behavior, but it can also be used to describe someone who is fired up or excited, that is, passionate about God. I think Paul captures the completeness of the concept in his instruction to Timothy when he writes, "Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." (II Timothy 2:22).

The heat wave to avoid is that of lustful passion. Our evening services have been focused on the life of David and I recently preached about his sin with Bathsheba. II Samuel 11:2-4 reveals David and Bathsheba's bad behavior. "Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. So David sent and inquired about the woman .... David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her ...." Sadly, this heat wave of sin marred David's reputation and usefulness for the rest of his life.

The heat wave to seek is that of righteous passions. Paul told Timothy to pursue righteousness. Are we doing that? I addressed this when recently preaching on Ephesians 4:30-32. In that text Paul instructs, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

I wonder how this heat wave is affecting us? Are there wicked passions we need to forsake? Are there righteous passions we should pursue? How are you doing with this heat wave?

Looking Up,  
Pastor Chuck Circle