

One Thing

- I. There are many things that we *have to* devote our time, thoughts, and energies to.
 1. Husbands *have to* spend much of their time and energy working to provide for their families (**2Th 3:10-12; 1Ti 5:8**).
 2. Women *have to* spend much of their time and energy taking care of the house, cooking, cleaning, doing dishes and laundry, and caring for children (**1Ti 5:14; Tit 2:3-5**).
 3. It would be wrong of us to neglect those God-given duties.
 4. But what do we spend our time thinking about and doing when our required duties are accomplished for the day?
 - A. What do we *wish* we could be doing or thinking about when we are doing what we *must*? (**Psa 119:20, 40, 123, 131, 174**)
 - i. Long v. - II. 5. *impers.* with accus. *me longs (longeth)*: I have a yearning desire; I long. 6. To have a yearning desire; to wish earnestly.
 - ii. Wish v. - 1. a. *trans.* To have or feel a wish for; to desire.
 - iii. Desire v. - 1. *trans.* To have a strong wish for; to long for, covet, crave.
 - B. Where do our minds wander when we have time to let them? (**Psa 119:97, 113**)
 - C. What do we most desire in our hearts to have? (**Psa 119:72**)
 - D. Do we think and talk about God, His word, His kingdom, and His people when our minds are not preoccupied with the necessities of life?
 - E. Where do we go when we are free to go? (**Act 4:23**)
 - F. When we have free time in the car, on the lawn mower, or when doing other mundane things, are we eager to listen to sermons -- or podcasts, music, or talk radio? (**Psa 119:33**)
 - G. Are our conversations dominated by spiritual things or carnal things? (**Psa 71:24; Psa 77:12; Psa 119:27; Psa 145:10-12**)
- II. There are a million things that an undisciplined mind can preoccupy itself with, but a wise man is focused on *one thing* (**Pro 17:24**).
 1. What does the average person apply his thoughts and pursuits to?
 - A. Sports
 - B. Hobbies
 - C. Leisure
 - D. Work, occupation, career
 - E. Politics
 - F. News and current events
 - G. Movies
 - H. TV shows
 - I. Celebrities
 - J. Surfing the internet
 - K. YouTube videos
 - L. Fictional books
 - M. Exercising
 - N. Eating
 2. Most of these things are okay when done in moderation (**Php 4:5; 1Co 9:25**).
 3. But how do all those things individually and collectively compare to the "one thing" that should consume our thoughts and desires?
 4. Jesus, even as a child, was about His Father's business (**Luk 2:49**).

5. Jesus had His mind focused on *one thing*.

III. What is the "one thing" that should be the focus of our lives, thoughts, conversations, plans, and pursuits?

1. It has many facets, but it can be summed up by this one thing: *devotion to God*.
2. This "one thing" includes the following things.

A. "One thing" #1: Devotion to Christ Himself (**Php 3:13**).

- i. The apostle Paul devoted all his energy to *one thing*: pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (**Php 3:13**).
- ii. Paul forgot the things of his past (**Php 3:13**).
- iii. He considered them but dung that he could win Christ (**Php 3:7-8**).
- iv. Above all else, Paul wanted to *know Jesus Christ* (**Php 3:10**).
- v. We should be thus minded (**Php 3:15**).
- vi. Jesus Christ was the focus of Paul's preaching.
 - a. He was determined to know nothing else but Jesus Christ and Him crucified (**1Co 2:2**).
 - b. He did not preach the wisdom of men (**1Co 2:4-5**).
 - c. He did not preach about himself, but about Christ Jesus the Lord (**2Co 4:5**).
 - d. Paul only gloried in the cross of Christ (**Gal 6:14**).
- vii. Jesus is beautiful and is worthy of our admiration.
 - a. He was not beautiful when He walked the earth (**Isa 53:2**).
 - b. Comeliness *n.* - 1. Pleasing appearance; gracefulness or beauty of form; handsomeness.
 - c. But in His glorified state, Jesus is fairer than all (**Psa 45:1-2**).
 - d. Fair *adj.* - 1. Beautiful to the eye; of pleasing form or appearance; good-looking.
 - e. 2000 years later, He still has the dew of His youth (**Psa 110:3-4**).
- viii. Jesus is our Lord and Master (**Joh 13:13-14**).
 - a. He is the blessed and only potentate (**1Ti 6:15-16**).
 - b. Potentate *n.* - 1. A person endowed with independent power; a prince, monarch, ruler.
 - c. Therefore, we owe Him our obedience (**Joh 14:15; 1Jo 2:3-5**).
- ix. Jesus saved us from our sins (**Mat 1:21; Rev 1:5**).
 - a. We therefore owe Him our worship and devotion.
 - b. Jesus will be the object of our worship for all eternity in heaven because He redeemed us (**Rev 5:9-14**).
- x. The purpose of Jesus Christ giving us eternal life was so that we can know Him (**Joh 17:3; 1Jo 5:20**).
 - a. Knowing the love of Christ passes all other knowledge (**Eph 3:19**).
 - b. We should be like those Greeks who said "Sir, we would see Jesus" (**Joh 12:21**).
- xi. Don't waste your life in the pursuit of other knowledge to the neglect of the knowledge of the Son of God our Saviour.

B. "One thing" #2: Devotion to Christ's church (**Psa 27:4**).

- i. David wrote Psalm 27.

- ii. David was a man after God's own heart (**Act 13:22**).
- iii. David desired *one thing* from the Lord.
 - a. Desire v. - 1. *trans.* To have a strong wish for; to long for, covet, crave.
 - b. To *desire* something is to apply the *heart and mind* toward it.
- iv. He sought after that *one thing*.
 - a. Seek v. - 1. a. To go in search or quest of; to try to find, look for (either a particular object—person, thing, or place—whose whereabouts are unknown, or an indefinite object suitable for a particular purpose).
 - b. To *seek* something is to apply the *will* toward it.
- v. The *one thing* that David *longed for* and *looked for* was the house of God (**Psa 27:4**).
 - a. The house of God is the church of the living God (**1Ti 3:15**).
 - b. The church of God is His kingdom on this earth (**Mat 16:18-19; Luk 22:29-30**).
 - c. The church/kingdom must be sought for if it is to be found (**Mat 7:7-8**).
 - (i) Once it's found, it must be valued more highly than anything else we have (**Mat 13:44-46**).
 - (ii) This includes family, property, land, and anything else dear to us (**Luk 18:29-30**).
- vi. God's churches are *amiable* (**Psa 84:1**).
- vii. Amiable *adj.* - 1. a. Of persons: Friendly, amicable; kind (in action). *Obs.* 2. Worthy to be loved, lovable, lovely.
- viii. Our souls should *long* and *faint* for God's house (**Psa 84:2**).
 - a. Long v. - II. 5. *impers.* with accus. *me longs (longeth)*: I have a yearning desire; I long. 6. To have a yearning desire; to wish earnestly. Also, to be restless or impatient till (something is attained).
 - b. Faint v. - 1. *intr.* To lose heart or courage, be afraid, become depressed, give way, flag. Now only arch. after Biblical uses. 2. To become faint, grow weak or feeble, decline.
 - c. If you were ever kept away from a local church, would you be afraid and depressed?
 - d. Would you grow weak, become feeble, and decline?
 - e. I would.
- ix. Those that dwell in God's house are blessed (**Psa 84:4**).
- x. One day in God's church is better than a thousand days anywhere else (**Psa 84:10**).
- xi. God loves His house more than any other place on this earth, and so should we (**Psa 87:2**).

C. "One thing" #3: Devotion to Christ's doctrine (**Luk 10:42**).

- i. Mary chose to sit a Jesus' feet and hear His word (**Luk 10:38-39**).
- ii. This was the "one thing" that was needful (v.42).
- iii. Martha chose to be busy with the things of the world.
 - a. She was cumbered about much serving (**Luk 10:40**).

- (i) Cumber v. - 1. *trans.* To overwhelm, overthrow, rout, destroy. 2. To harass, distress, trouble. *Obs.* (exc. with mixture of sense 4: to incommode, bother). 1611 Bible Luke x. 40 Martha was cumbred about much seruing. 4. To occupy obstructively, or inconveniently; to block up or fill with what hinders freedom of motion or action; to burden, load.
 - b. She was careful and troubled about many things (**Luk 10:41**).
 - (i) Careful *adj.* - 2. Full of care, trouble, anxiety, or concern; anxious, troubled, solicitous, concerned.
 - (ii) Troubled *ppl.* - 1. Physically agitated; of the sea, sky, etc., stormy; of water, wine, etc., stirred up so as to diffuse the sediment, made thick or muddy, turbid. 2. Disturbed; disquieted; disordered; agitated; afflicted.
 - c. The things that she was doing would have been good if she would have first given priority to learning Christ's doctrine.
 - iv. The truth of Christ's doctrine is of utmost importance (**2Jo 1:9; 3Jo 1:3-4**).
 - v. It is more important than our necessary food (**Job 23:12; Mat 4:4; Jer 15:16**).
 - vi. We must love it and defend it all of our days (**Psa 119:97; Jud 1:3**).
 - vii. The truth of Christ's doctrine will make us free from the lies of this world (**Joh 8:31-32**).
- D. "One thing" #4: Devotion to Christ's salvation (Joh 9:25).
 - i. The blind man that Jesus healed didn't know everything, but he knew "one thing" for sure: Jesus healed him and gave him sight.
 - ii. That man was healed of physical blindness, but there is still a lesson in it for us.
 - iii. The unregenerate are spiritually blind.
 - a. Satan *blinds* the minds of unbelievers (**2Co 4:4**).
 - b. The *blindness* of the hearts of the unregenerate darkens their understanding, alienates them from God, and leads them into a life of sin (**Eph 4:17-19**).
 - c. Those who are not born again cannot *see* the kingdom of God (**Joh 3:3**).
 - iv. All believers have been healed by Christ of spiritual blindness (**Pro 20:12**).
 - a. God has hid the truth from the wise and prudent and revealed it unto babes like us (**Luk 10:21**).
 - b. We know God the Father is because the Son of God has revealed Him to us (**Luk 10:22**).
 - c. We are blessed to be saved by the grace of God and to have eyes that see (**Luk 10:23**).
 - d. Through the revelation of the word of God we have seen spiritual things that the prophets desired to but did not (**Luk 10:24**).
 - v. We should rejoice in Christ's salvation (**Psa 13:5; Psa 70:4**).
 - vi. We should declare it to everyone we have opportunity to (**Psa 40:10; Psa 71:15**).
- E. "One thing" #5: Devotion to Christ's return (2Pe 3:8).

- i. The context of 2Pe 3 is the return of Christ to destroy the heavens and earth and create a new one.
- ii. We must be devoted to waiting for that blessed day.
- iii. Jesus Christ will return to this earth just like He left it (**Act 1:11**).
 - a. He will return in the clouds for all to see (**Mat 24:30-31; Rev 1:7**).
 - b. He will return with salvation for them that look for Him (**Heb 9:28**).
 - c. He will return to punish the wicked who obeyed not the gospel and persecuted the saints (**2Th 1:6-10**).
 - d. He will return to resurrect our bodies which is our hope (**Rom 8:22-25**).
 - e. He will return to destroy the heavens and the earth and create new ones (**2Pe 3:10-13**).
- iv. When Jesus returns we will ever be with the Lord (**1Th 4:16-17**).
 - a. We will see Him as He is (**1Jo 3:2**).
 - b. This corruptible body will put on incorruption (**1Co 15:52-53**).
 - c. Jesus has prepared for us a place in heaven where we will ever be with Him (**Joh 14:1-3**).
 - d. There will be no more sin, sorrow, pain, or death there (**Rev 21:1-8**).
- v. We must watch (**Mat 24:42**), wait patiently (**Jam 5:7-8**), and occupy (**Luk 19:13**) until He comes.
 - a. Christians have been waiting nearly 2000 years for the return of Christ.
 - b. "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this *one thing*, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (**2Pe 3:8**)
 - c. Keep waiting and watching for He that shall come will come and He will not tarry (**Heb 10:35-39**).
 - d. Keep looking up; keep hoping and waiting for the coming of the Lord.