

One Thing

“What is the One Thing?” – Psalm 27:4

February 20, 2011

Overview of Sermon Series

ONE THING			
A 7-Week Series on All the “One Thing” Bible Passages			
Date	Message Title	Text	Worship Ldrs
Feb 20	What is the One Thing?	Psalm 27:4	GF Team with Jimmy
Feb 27	Distractions from the One Thing – Part 1	Luke 10:38-42	GF Team with Wayne
Mar 6	Distractions from the One Thing – Part 2	Luke 18:18-30	Jimmy Needham Band
Mar 13	Passionately Pursuing the One Thing	Philippians 3:7-14	Wayne Kerr Band
Mar 20	How to Get the One Thing	Galatians 3:1-5	Matthew & Lizi Band
Mar 27	The One Thing and the Return of Christ	2 Peter 3:8-9	GF Team with Wayne
Apr 3	Testimonies of One Thing	John 9:25	GF Team w/ Matt&Lizi

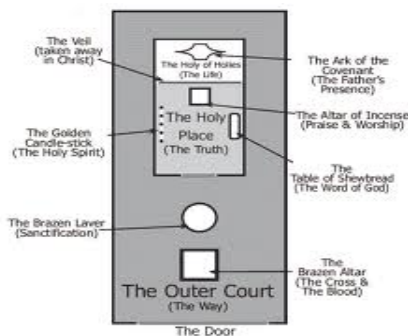
Introducing “One Thing”

- “City Slickers” video clip
- Letter from a young Communist

What is the “One Thing”? (Psalm 27:4)

1) The “one thing” is _____ in the house of the Lord continually

- “dwell” = *yashab* (yaw-shab) = to sit down, to dwell, to remain, to settle, to marry, to abide
- Psalm 1:1-2** – *Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit (yashab) in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.*
- The “house of the Lord” here refers literally to the OT Tabernacle (vv.4-6) and figuratively to God’s Presence. The OT Tabernacle is a picture of how to enter into the Presence of God (Hebrews 8:5):



Application #1: Pray through the Tabernacle:

Altar = blood of Christ
 Laver = confession of sin
 Candlestick = Holy Spirit
 Bread = Word of God
 Incense = Praise
 Veil = torn by Christ’s death
 Ark = God’s Presence

- As great as it is to pray in God’s physical temple (tabernacle, church building), we have something that David did not have. In new covenant times, all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ have God’s Spirit (God’s Presence) living within them. Therefore, believers can talk to God (and sit in His Presence) anywhere at any time.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19** – *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?*
- Application #2:** Receive Christ. This is the first step to the “one thing”!

Lord Jesus, I want to know You personally. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

- Application #3:** Practice His Presence. Dwell in the house of the Lord continually by conversing with God as a way of life (1 Thessalonians 5:17), by enjoying His Presence within you continuously (John 15:5-8), by resting in Him (Hebrews 4:9-11).
- Dwayne Roberts: “In Psalm 27, David is communicating that he discovered his primary purpose in life was to ‘be’ with God – nothing more and nothing less. David understood that all of life is about one thing. That’s it. He somehow reduced everything in his life to its lowest common denominator, to discover that it was all about one thing: *desire for the Lord.*”

2) The “one thing” is gazing on the _____ of the Lord

- Who is saying this? David (bio)
- God is the most beautiful being in the universe! What is the most beautiful thing or person that you have ever seen? Multiple times 100 trillion, and you still have not approached God’s beauty. God’s beauty is mesmerizing! To see His beauty is incredibly fulfilling and satisfying and enjoyable... and your purpose!
- “gaze” = *chazah* (khaw-zaw’) = to gaze at; to contemplate with pleasure; to have a vision of; to behold
- Application #4:** How do we gaze upon God’s beauty?
 - Through His _____
 - Through His Word
 - Through prayer and worship
 - Through His works
 - Through _____ (poetry, music, art)
 - Through _____ and brokenness (Psalm 27:2,3,5,12) (David’s story)
- Phil Wickham’s song: “You’re Beautiful”
- Application #5:** Lord, show me Your beauty in the midst of my pain.

- Mike Bickle: “The first commandment must be first, and the second commandment must be second. The first commandment has to do with a gazing heart that learns, enjoys, and becomes a wholehearted lover of God. The second tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves. If our hearts don’t first encounter the fire of His heart, we will sooner or later burn out in loving others. Maybe you have known people who approach their ministry with spunk and a can-do attitude, but after a while their eyes dim, they sit in their office behind closed doors, and the joy seems to have leaked out of them like a flat tire. Most likely, they switched the order of the commandments. When the second commandment is put in first place, there is not enough energy to carry out the task of loving our neighbor, and so ministry flounders. Worse, the church becomes an idol that hinders the kingdom of God!”

3) The “one thing” is _____

- To seek God is to seek His Face (Psalm 27:8)
- Exodus 33:18-23 – To see God’s Face is to see His glory
- 2 Corinthians 4:6** – *For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*
- Revelation 21:22-23;22:3-5** – *I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.... No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*
- Nine different ways Christians seek God (Gary Thomas’ *Sacred Pathways*):

- Naturalists** – most inspired to love God out-of-doors in natural settings
- Sensates** – love God with their senses and appreciate beautiful worship services that involve their sight, taste, smell, and touch, not just their ears
- Traditionalists** – draw close to God through rituals, liturgies, symbols, and unchanging structures
- Ascetics** – prefer to love God in solitude and simplicity
- Activists** – love God through confronting evil, battling injustice, and working to make the world a better place
- Caregivers** – love God by loving others and meeting their needs
- Enthusiasts** – love God through celebration
- Contemplatives** – love God through adoration
- Intellectuals** – love God by studying with their minds.

- Application #6:** I am going to discover my sacred pathway of seeking God, and I am going to seek Him with all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength. I am going to seek the “one thing.”
- Video: “11 Year Old Reveals Jesus Throughout the Entire Bible” (GodTube.com)
- Sometimes (many times) seeking God involves _____ on Him (Psalm 27:13-14)(David’s story)
- John Waller’s song: “While I’m Waiting”
- Application #7:** I choose today to wait on the Lord. I will seek Him on His terms and timing... trusting Him to bring ultimate good and ultimate glory (Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:20; Jeremiah 29:11).
- Thomas Dubay: “You and I, each and every one of us without exception, can be defined as an aching need for the infinite. Some people realize this; some do not. But even the latter illustrate this inner ache when, not having God deeply, they incessantly spill themselves out into excitements and experiences, licit or illicit. They are trying to fill their inner emptiness, but they never succeed, which is why the search is incessant. Though worldly pleasure seeking never fulfills and satisfies in a continuing way, it may tend momentarily to distract and to dull the profound pain of the inner void. If these people allow themselves a moment of reflective silence (which they seldom do), they notice a still, small voice whispering, ‘Is this all there is?’ They begin to sense a thirst to love with abandon, without limit, without end, without lingering aftertastes of bitterness. In other words, their inner spirit is clamoring, even if confusedly, for unending beauty. How they and we respond to this inner outreach rooted in our deep spiritual soul is the most basic set of decisions we can make: they have eternal consequences.”

Application #8: With God’s help, I am going to commit myself to the “One Thing” study of God’s Word and pursue the “One Thing” with all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength.

<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Person/Topic</i>	<i>Definition of “One Thing”</i>
Psalm 27:4	David	Dwelling in God’s Presence
Luke 10:38-42	Mary/Martha	Sitting at the Lord’s feet listening
Luke 18:18-30	Rich Young Ruler	Giving up all to follow Jesus
Philippians 3:7-14	Apostle Paul	Pressing on to know Christ
Galatians 3:1-5	Foolish Galatians	Living by faith in everything (sanctification as well as justification)
2 Peter 3:8-9	Second Coming	Mysterious timing and implications of His Return
John 9:25	Blind man	A life changed by Jesus

Questions to Discuss with My Family, Friends, and Small Group

- If you could go on a “city slickers” getaway experience, where would you go?
- Read Psalm 27:4 aloud and discuss its meaning and applications using these notes. Share your applications with each other and pray for one another.