



RIVER VALLEY HS FCA CLIPBOARD

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Dear Vikes,

NBA hall-of-famer, Jerry West, once said about basketball: "The way I see it, if a man has a job he hates and can't stand going to work every day, then it's about time he started to look for a new job. As for me, I enjoy the game." West began his love for the game of basketball at the age of ten. He played on a makeshift court in a neighbor's backyard in his hometown of Cheylan, West Virginia. Although the court wasn't fancy, West loved it and played on it every day no matter the weather. Because of his love of the game, Jerry West became one of the best college and NBA players in history (in fact, the NBA logo is of Jerry West).

Some might say that Jerry West had a real passion for basketball that caused him to work hard and play hard. He played the game with ALL his heart. That's REAL passion! I think as Christians, we should have a like passion for the Lord. To say with David, "I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength" (Psalm 18:1). Your passion should consume ALL your heart - a heart FULL of affection and giving FULL attention to the Lord.

Revelation 2:4 reveals the spiritual state of the church at Ephesus: "Thou have left (notice "left" they did not "loss") your first love" - to that group of believers who had allowed the torch of their first love for God to burn out, verse 5 goes on



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to say, "Think about those times of your first love . . . and turn back to me [Jesus] again and work as you did before."

Concerned that the fire of that first love for Jesus not go out Paul said, "Stir up - rekindle the embers, fan the flame and keep burnin - the (gracious) gift of God, (the inner fire) that is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6).

As you study God's Word and spend time with Him in praise and worship, giving Him your FULL affection and attention, the embers of your first love for Him will be stirred and the fire of that love will continue to burn strong.

Upward bound,
Coach Pat Street

GOOD SHOT!

I remember years ago when I first started to play tennis. A member of my church, that I pastured, taught me the game. Jim was always an encourager. Even when I missed a shot or had a bad serve, he'd say, "That's OK, you're learning" or "Good shot, now get the next one in bounds." His encouragement and praise made me want to play hard and better.

All of us need to be encouraged. And we all need praise. It makes us feel good about ourselves and helps us focus on doing things better and living life better. Well, Psalm 11 gives many reasons to praise the Lord for all the blessings in our lives - His great works (vs. 2), His righteousness (vs. 3), His grace and compassion (vs. 4), His provision (vs. 5), His power (vs. 6), His justice (vs. 7), His faithfulness (vs. 8), and His redemption (vs. 9) - Praise is a compliment to the Lord, and you and I honor Him when we give praise to Him.

If we can compliment a good shot in tennis or some other small accomplishment, shouldn't we compliment the Lord for His great goodness toward us?

Think of something for which you can say, "Praise the Lord!" - then set about praising God and ministering to Him all day long.

**"I will praise
the Lord
with my
whole heart"**

-Psalm 133:1



The Dallas Mavericks forward, **Dirk Nowitzki**, of Germany, ended the two-year MVP reign of good friend **Steve Nash** after a regular season in which the seven-footer led his team to 67 wins, the sixth most in league history.

Nowitzki received 1,138 points, including 83 of the 129 first-place votes. Results of the MVP vote were reported by The Associated Press and other media outlets.

Nash, a Victoria native and Phoenix Suns point guard, followed with 1,013 points and 44 first-place votes, and **Kobe Bryant** of the Los Angeles Lakers got the remaining two first-place votes. San Antonio's **Tim Duncan** was fourth and Cleveland's **LeBron James** was fifth.



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