

# Zeal

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John 2:17 — His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

This verse comes after His disciples have seen Him driving out those who are perverting the house of God. Jesus was described by His own disciples as zealous. As Christians, or followers of Christ, we are to be imitating Christ. He is the Master Teacher and so we must learn to be more like Him. (Luke 6:40)

We are to be imitating Christ in every way. We are to be seeking and saving the lost, we are to be about the Work of God, etc. Everything we’ve been studying is involved in it, as well as zeal! Zeal is defined as “eagerness; interest in pursuit of something.” Christ’s interest was in the proper order of how the house was to be. Christ was zealous for the work of God. He was striving to make sure everything was done in a proper manner.

Many today treat the Lord’s House as these were back then. There are not those selling doves today, but there are places that have left the faith, and are perverting the Gospel. The Gospel of Christ is about seeking those who are lost. It is not about social gatherings, personal preferences, worldly living, etc.

Zeal is a trait lacking among many brethren. Many who have been zealous for God have gone on to be with the Lord, but who will fill their shoes? Who will step up and be zealous for the Lord?

## **What are some ways that we can be zealous?**

1. Study — In order to know the proper actions one is to engage in, we must first understand the text. In order to understand proper order, and faithfulness, we first must understand what has been given to us as the Word.
2. Be Active — Zeal is a fire burning in us that consumes us and makes us want to be of service. Zeal is not what burns but sits idle, that would be how we lose our zeal. Jeremiah said in 20:9 “His word is like a fire in my heart, a fire in my bones.” Jeremiah talked about stopping to speak the Word as none wanted to hear and

obey, but that simply could not happen! We too need to be involved in service. Maybe we need to help with teaching a class, maybe we offer to host a class if someone will come teach it. We might offer to participate in a class to encourage others to come and be active. We might take time to visit with others and check on some to be an encouragement. There is much we can do.

3. Pray — Often we talk about prayer life, but in reality, we need to be zealous in our prayers. Often many, myself included, do not take the time to simply talk with God. We need to pray for the work of the church, pray for the lost, pray for those around us, pray for each other, etc. We can show great zeal in our prayers to God.

### **How can we keep our zeal from growing cold?**

1. Do not compromise the truth. — Many have left the paths of truth for their own desires. “Churches of Christ” are engaged in the very items Jesus was dealing with in this chapter. If we continually stick to the truth, it will always win out. We need to be zealous in standing firm for the truth and not let others around us compromise it.
2. Staying Near to God — Involved in prayer in studying His word, by staying close to God it is much easier to be zealous for Him. When we see all that He has done for us, we are able to be more faithful unto Him. By drawing from Him, we keep our light burning.
3. Admit When We are Wrong — The quickest way to burn out is by always thinking we have all the answers and that we are never wrong. Sometimes our actions and manners are completely out of touch with the will of God. If we do not recognize it, and make amends, our zeal will either grow cold or be directed in the wrong path.

May we all strive to be zealous for the cause of Christ. —**CW**