

# Religious Zeal

Gal. 4:17-18

## Introduction:

- A. The value of zeal depends on what we mix with it.
  - 1. It can be productive or destructive.
  - 2. It can be admirable or detestable.
  - 3. It can be commendable or condemnable.
- B. The display of zeal may differ from person to person.
  - 1. Depends on one's primary convictions.
  - 2. Depends, also, on personal temperament.
  - 3. Depends, also, on physical energy.
- C. The exercise of zeal must mixed with other **factors**.

## Discussion:

### **I. Zeal Needs to Be Properly Fueled. (cf. Zeal like fire)**

- A. Fueled with knowledge rather than ignorance. (Rom. 10:1-4).
  - 1. Jews had destructive ignorant zeal.(Acts 3:14-17; 8:3; Phil. 3:6; 1 Tim. 1:13).
  - 2. Christians need productive informed zeal. (Acts 4:20; 1 Pet. 3:15; cf 2 Tim. 2:15).
- B. Fueled with sobriety rather than excitability.
  - 1. Life of calmness rather than "fanaticism" ("fan") (Phil. 4:5; Tit. 2:6-8).
  - 2. Worship in peace of reasoned devotion rather an confusion of spontaneity. (1 Cor. 14:26-33, 40).
    - a. Little use for spiritual "cheerleaders" or "super-salesmen"
    - b. Playing emotions belongs to others, not Christians. (cf. Acts 19:32).

### **II. Zeal Needs to Have Proper Objectives.**

- A. Zealous to do good works - "zealous in a good thing" (cf. Tit. 2:14; 2 Tim. 3:16,17)
- B. Zealous to promote Truth rather than a party. (v. 17 cf. Mt. 23:15).
  - 1. Partisans zealously court the gullible. (cf. 2 Tim. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-18).
  - 2. Truth seekers seek to save souls rather court numbers. (1 Th. 2:1-6; cf. Lk. 9:57-62).

### **III. Zeal Needs to Be Attended by Proper Precautions.**

- A. Jesus urged would-be disciples to "count the cost" (Lk. 14:75 ff.).
- B. We need to look before leaping, be aware of responsibility. (Jas. 1:3; Mt. 7:1).

Conclusion: Once we have been careful to properly fuel zeal and define objectives:

- A. Let us constantly re-kindle our zeal for good works.
- B. Let us control our zeal.
- C. Let us praise only zeal for good.