

Be Zealous

I. Introduction

A. Part of the Lord's purpose in giving Himself for us was to purify unto himself a peculiar people who are *zealous* for good works. **Titus 2:14; Revelation 3:19**

II. Absence of Zeal

A. The "lukewarm" church at Laodicea exemplified lack of zeal. This church was the only one of the "seven churches of Asia" given no commendation. The Lord indicated His disgust with them because of their spiritual apathy. **Revelation 3:14-17**

III. Rightly Directed Zeal

- A. Zeal for God can be misdirected (**Rom. 10:2**), and actually cause harm rather than good. **Philippians 3:6; Galatians 4:17**
- B. While zeal without knowledge goes against God's will, so too does knowledge without zeal. Thus, we must eagerly pursue *properly directed* zeal. Thankfully, God's Word fully equips us for this. **Galatians 4:18; Titus 2:14; 2 Timothy 3:17**

IV. Be Zealous for the Word of Righteousness

- A. An example of something God shows us we should be zealous for is righteousness. **Matthew 5:6**
- B. We can know *how* to be right with God by looking into His Word. We should treasure this Word, and zealously long for the spiritual nourishment it provides. **1 Peter 2:2; Psalm 19:7-10**

V. Be Zealous for Making Needed Correction

A. Our zealous desire for God's Word should be accompanied by sincere self-examination, as we look for corrections to make and areas to grow. When we find a correction that needs to be made, we should be zealous to make it. **2 Corinthians 7:11**

VI. Be Zealous for Prayer

A. We should also be zealous for prayer. Praying frequently and fervently like we should will be much easier if we value prayer as the *privilege* that it is. **Philippians 4:6; Hymns for Worship, Song 69; 1 Peter 5:7; James 5:16**

VII. Be Zealous for Assembling

A. Another good work we should be zealous for is assembling with saints. We should be zealous for opportunities to edify and be edified by one another. **Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Corinthians 14:12**

VIII. Be Zealous for Worship

A. A specific opportunity we have when assembling together is the chance to worship God. This too is something we should be zealous for. Our zeal should be shown to God through the spirit with which we worship. **Colossians 3:16**

IX. Be Zealous for Helping Others

- A. We should also be zealous for helping our brothers and sisters in Christ. **Colossians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 9:2**
- B. More generally, we should be zealous for helping anyone as Scripture authorizes and as we have the ability and opportunity. **Galatians 6:10; 2:10**

X. Motivation for Zeal

A. God not only commands us to be zealous, but He gives us great motivation for zeal. When we consider what Christ has done for us, it's only fitting for us to give ourselves wholeheartedly to Him. **2 Corinthians 5:15; Romans 12:1**