**Zeal**

**Introduction**

1. Zeal is an important subject that must be considered.
2. However, it is a subject that is mistaken by the world to be subjective.
3. Zeal is something that is also a subject of God’s word, and must be heeded accordingly.
4. What is zeal?
5. Zeal
* Etymology of the term “zeal”
	+ From a primary verb (*zeo*); to be hot (boil, of liquids; or glow, of solids), i.e. (figuratively) be fervid (earnest):--be fervent.
* Definition of the term zeal (*zelos*)
	+ properly, heat, i.e. (figuratively) "zeal" (in a favorable sense, ardor; in an unfavorable one, jealousy, as of a husband (figuratively, of God), or an enemy, malice):--emulation, envy(-ing), fervent mind, indignation, jealousy, zeal.
* Zeal is an energy and passion for something or someone. (Ex: sometimes we say on fire for the Lord – that is talking about zeal). (similar word = fervent)
1. Zeal is needed.
* For God – **Mark 12:30** – Our love for God should include the entirety of our being.
* For others – **Colossians 4:12-13** – The man Epaphras had a passion (so to speak) for his brethren. He wanted them to do well in the will of God.
	+ **(1:7**) – Epaphras had originally brought the gospel to the Colossians. This sparked in him a zeal for them.
	+ **Acts 20:28-31** – Paul exhorting the Ephesian elders. He was zealous toward them, and fervent in his work for the Lord concerning the Ephesian brethren.
* For good works – **Titus 2:14** – We must not complain and murmur about what God requires of us. Rather we are to be zealous about it! (On fire for it!)
	+ The difference between “I have to” and “I get to.”
	+ Example: Missing baseball playoff game in high school. Growing up it was always that “I had to” because my parents said. I developed a zeal for God, and it turned in to “I get to” or “I’d rather go to worship.”

*Zeal is important. God expects us to be zealous people. That’s what Christians are – zealous people of God. However, the zeal is a specific one. It is rightly directed zeal. Misdirected zeal is detrimental.*

1. A Proper Zeal
2. When zeal is absent.
* **Revelation 3:14-16** – The Laodiceans were apathetic. (Apathy is quite the opposite of zeal – without emotion or feeling.)
	+ This is unacceptable to the Lord.
* **Micah 6:6-8** – Disobedient Israel was just going through the motions. Their hearts were not involved. God simply wanted their diligence, and faithfulness.
* **Revelation 2:1-5** – Zeal is absent when we leave our first love.
	+ To fix this we must remember Christ and what He has done for us!
1. When zeal is misdirected.
* **Romans 10:1-3** – Zeal is misdirected when it is according to your own will.
	+ Israel were zealous for righteousness attained via keeping the Law. This was not God’s intention.
	+ Perhaps their zeal by itself is somewhat admirable, but it was misdirected.
* **Galatians 1:13-14** – Paul was zealous for traditions of men. God wanted him to be zealous for Him.
* **Galatians 4:17** – The Judaizers had selfish zeal. They were wanting the Galatians to be zealous for them, not God.
	+ Paul said it is good to be zealously sought in a good thing (the gospel of Christ, not a perverted gospel) (**cf. 4:18**). 🡪
1. When zeal is properly directed.
* **John 4:23** – Spirit and truth go hand in hand. One without the other is not enough.
	+ If we are sincere it must be according to what God has prescribed.
	+ If we are practicing truth it must be coupled with sincerity.
* **Matthew 7:21-23** – No matter how zealous one is, unless he is zealous according to the will of God he will not be accepted.
* **2 Corinthians 7:11** – The Corinthians godly sorrow produced in themselves a zeal for the truth, and obedience to it!

**Conclusion**

1. Are you zealous for God and your service as His servant?
2. If not, why not?
3. Renew your zeal in the Lord!