

Lesson 26 – Zeal: Lesson Outline

Zeal may be defined as “passionate enthusiasm.” It can be good or bad depending on what one is zealous about. In fact, the word ‘zeal’ comes from the Greek word ‘zelos’ which ranges in meaning from ‘jealousy’ and ‘emulation’ to ‘fervor’ and ‘ambition.’ Zeal is like fire – it needs feeding and watching.

Zeal is the opposite of apathy, indifference, and slothfulness. If ever there was a time for Baptists to be zealous, surely it is now. These are undoubtedly Laodicean days in which we find ourselves, where the spiritual temperature is ‘neither cold nor hot.’

Read Revelation 3:14-16 ¹⁴ *And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

There is a desperate need for the Lord’s churches and believers to get “on fire” (and stay “on fire”) for Christ.

Both these kinds of zeal are seen in Galatians 4:17-18 ¹⁷*They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. ¹⁸But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.*

In this passage, the apostle Paul addresses Galatians who had been swept up by the error of Judaizers. Paul wrote:

- “¹⁷*They zealously affect you, but not well;*” - **the wrong kind of zeal.**
- “¹⁸*But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing,*” - **the right kind of zeal.**
- “*... and not only when I am present with you.*” – **a genuine zeal.**

This study studies the “zeal” of the Christian life. It looks at two (2) types of zeal.

I MISDIRECTED ZEAL

- A. Zeal Alone Will Not Gain Salvation.
- B. Believers Can Be Zealously Caught Up in Wrong Things.
- C. Believers Can Be Wrongfully Zealous in Right Things.

II DIRECTED ZEAL

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. Zealous for the Word of God. | E. Zealous of Good Works. |
| B. Zealous in Prayer. | F. Zealous Toward the Saints. |
| C. Zealous Over the House of God. | G. Zealous for Church Purity |
| D. Zealous for the Great Commission. | |

Lesson 26 – Zeal

I MISDIRECTED ZEAL

Many people are zealous – but for the wrong cause. The communists of the 20th century (and 21st century) were certainly zealous. Cults, such as the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses, are zealous. New-age environmentalism (pantheism) and certain **Sodomite organizations**, for example are extremely zealous for their wicked causes – and as a result, are often successful in achieving their ends.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ⁹*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (This includes both males and females.)*

Religious zeal is typically extremely passionate, and downright dangerous! So-called Islamic fundamentalists (the brand of Islam that practices and endorses the all that the Koran and Hadith teach) is a prime example of misdirected zeal. Zealous cults such as Branch Dividians have also brought the loss of many innocent lives. History is replete with examples of misdirected zeal! Consider the recent historical atrocities of political movements of Communism, Fascism, and Nazism.

A. Zeal Alone Will Not Gain Salvation.

Many think that it doesn't matter what you believe in as long as long as you are sincere (zealous!) Consider the following examples:

1. The Jews – read Romans 10: 1-4 ¹*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. ²For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. ⁴For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*

The apostle Paul wrote of his beloved countrymen:

- a. Verse 2: *“they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.”*

- b. Verse 3a: “³For they being ignorant of God's righteousness”
- c. Verse 3b: The Jews seek “to establish their own righteousness” by observing the law of Moses.

What you BELIEVE IN (DOCTRINE - set of beliefs held) is important!

2. The Apostle Paul

Paul's own testimony shows the futility of religious zeal. Read Acts 22:3-5

³I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day. ⁴And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. ⁵As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

- a. Brought up at the feet of the eminent *Gamaliel*. [Gamaliel the Elder, or Rabban Gamaliel I, was a leading authority in the Sanhedrin in the early first century AD. Gamaliel is thought to have died in 52 AD.]
- b. Taught according to “*the perfect manner of the law of the fathers,*”
- c. Read Acts 22:3f “*and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.*”
- d. To see how zealous Paul was, read Galatians 1:13-14 *¹³For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: ¹⁴and profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, **being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.***

- e. Read Philippians 3:4-6 *⁴Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: ⁵circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; ⁶concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

Yet, after Paul was saved, he wrote in Philippians 3:7 *⁷But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*

3. The religious wolves

Read Matthew 7:15-23 *¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ²⁰Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

- a. Not everyone who says *Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;* [will be saved].

- b. True salvation is **KNOWING** Jesus Christ personally.

Jesus' words may sound harsh to us, but they also contain great truth. Great works will not earn a person entrance into the kingdom, even astounding good works like those listed (Matthew 7:21–22). Jesus has said that on "that day," when He comes to establish His kingdom, some will point to their good works of prophesying, casting out demons, and doing other powerful works in His name. Those people will claim that their performance has earned, or at least proven, a place in Christ's kingdom. To those people, Christ will simply say He never knew them, dismiss their supposedly great deeds as works of lawlessness, and command them to depart.

More discussion: from <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/7/Matthew-7-23.html>

“If performing such mighty works does not provide a way into His kingdom, what will? This is an example of how Scripture often presents statements requiring careful understanding. Jesus has said (Matthew 7:21) that only those who do the will of His Father will enter. However, the will of God for every person is to believe in Jesus, to receive the gift of the forgiveness of sin made possible by His death on the cross and to be declared righteous before God in that way (John 6:28–29). Those who refuse to believe in this way commit the sin of unbelief (John 16:9; Hebrews 3:12), eliminating the only way to be known by Christ and welcomed into His kingdom (John 3:36; Ephesians 2:8–9).

It's important to notice that Jesus is making an enormous claim in this verse about His role in the kingdom of heaven. He is the One who will declare whether someone can enter the kingdom of heaven. He is the Judge who will grant entrance or condemn those who have not placed their faith in Him alone. They will be separated from Himself and the Father.

This completes the second half of a two-part warning. **Christians are not called to be naïve, either about others or themselves. Believers ought to be sensitive to spiritual deception from others (Matthew 7:15–20), as well as spiritual self-deception.”**

B. Believers Can Be Zealously Caught Up in Wrong Things.

1. Many Galatians were zealous for **False Doctrine.**

Read Galatians 4:17 (from verse 8 for context):

⁸Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. ⁹But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? ¹⁰Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. ¹¹I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

¹²Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all. ¹³Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. ¹⁴And my temptation which was in my

*flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. ¹⁶Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? ¹⁷**They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. ¹⁸But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.***

Having been saved from the LAW's penalty, **they turned again:**

- a. To its "weak and beggarly elements." From Galatians 4:9: *⁹But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the **weak and beggarly elements**, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*
 - b. To its BONDAGE Galatians 4:9e "*whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*"
 - c. To OBSERVING days, months, and times, and years [of false doctrine?] Galatians 4:10 *¹⁰Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.*
- 2.** Many Corinthians were zealous in showing off their presumed spirituality.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:12 *¹²Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*

They were more concerned about showing others how spiritual they were rather than being a blessing to them.

- a. The exercise of any spiritual gift without CHARITY is vanity.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 *¹Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ²And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ³And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*

- b. Real Christian love **does not vaunteth itself** and it is not “puffed up.” [To vaunt is to proudly call attention to our possessions, our accomplishments, our associations, or our righteousness.]

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4d *⁴Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity **vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,***

- c. The purpose for spiritual gifts is to **edify the church** – not to brag about.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:12b *¹²Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel **to the edifying of the church.***

C. Believers Can Be Wrongfully Zealous in Right Things.

1. In seeking to defend his Master, Simon Peter drew his sword and was prepared to fight off a large group of armed men.

Read John 18:10 *¹⁰Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.*

2. Christians may be zealous in their LIBERTY to the detriment of a WEAK brother.

Read 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 *⁹**But take heed lest by any means this liberty of your's become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.** ¹⁰For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; ¹¹and through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹²But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. ¹³Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.*

Zeal for Christ must never cause us to do wrong – even if it is to accomplish right! We must always “strive lawfully.” Read 2 Timothy 2:5 *⁵And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, **except he strive lawfully.*** Some

areas in which misguided zeal usually does more harm than good. Some examples are:

- High pressure “evangelism.”
- Confronting others about their faults.

II DIRECTED ZEAL

Believers ought be “zealously affected” in good things. There are seven things the Word of God directs us to be zealous for. Christians and churches need to be zealous:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. For The Word of God.B. In Prayer.C. Over the House of God.D. For the Great Commission.E. Of Good Works.F. Toward the Saints.G. For Church Purity. |
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A. Zealous for the Word of God.

1. Read Psalm 119:139-140

*¹³⁹My zeal hath consumed me,
Because mine enemies have forgotten thy words.*

*¹⁴⁰Thy word is very pure:
Therefore thy servant loveth it.*

In the “Word of God” chapter (Psalm 119),
the Psalmist declares of the Bible:

- a. Verse 139: ¹³⁹My zeal hath consumed me,
- b. Verse 140 states the Word of God is very pure. Therefore, *thy servant loveth it.*

2. Read Acts 17:11 (verses 10 thru 12) for example of correct zealotness in a good thing: ¹⁰*And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹**These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.** ¹²Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.*

The Bereans “**searched the scriptures daily.**”

3. Read Job 23:12 ¹²*Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I **have esteemed the words of his mouth** more than my necessary food.*

Job states he esteemed the Word of God more than his necessary food.

B. Zealous in Prayer.

1. Read James 5:16 ¹⁶*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.***
2. Read Colossians 4:12 ¹²*Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, **always labouring fervently for you in prayers,** that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:10 (from verse 9) ⁹*For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God; ¹⁰night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?*

Paul prayed ¹⁰*night and day praying exceedingly...*

Also read 2 Timothy 1:3 ³*I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that **without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;***

C. Zealous Over the House of God. [like our church]

1. Read Psalm 69:9 *⁹For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; And the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.*

This messianic prophecy declares “*⁹For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up;*”

2. Read John 2:17 (this passage is associated with ¹⁵and when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; “*¹⁷And his disciples remembered that it was written, **The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.***”

The prophecy of Psalm 69:9 is fulfilled by Jesus when he cleansed the temple.

3. In this present age, the house of God is the CHURCH. The organized assembly of scripturally baptized believers. Read 1 Timothy 3:15: (from verse 14)

*¹⁴These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: ¹⁵But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know **how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.***

It has been said that the:

- Sunday morning attendance is indicative of how much the preacher is loved.
- Sunday evening attendance is an indication of how much the church is loved.
- Mid-week attendance is indicative of how much the Lord is loved.

DOES the anticipation of attending church meeting “EAT YOU UP.”
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D. Zealous for the Great Commission.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-2 *¹For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: ²for I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.*

The zeal of the Corinthian church in giving to the Lord's work provoked very many.

2. This zeal demonstrated their professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ. [the action of subjecting a country or person to one's control, or the fact of being subjected.]

Read 2 Corinthians 9:13 (from verse 10) *¹⁰Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) ¹¹being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; ¹³whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;*

E. Zealous of Good Works.

1. We read in Titus that Christ gave His life for us that we may be a people who are zealous of GOOD WORKS,

Read Titus 2:11-15 *¹¹For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; ¹⁴who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. ¹⁵These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

2. We are **not saved by our good works but we are saved UNTO good works.**

Read Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. [good works]

3. According to Romans, we should not be *not slothful in the Lord's business but, fervent in spirit and in serving the Lord.*

Read Romans 12:11 (9-13) ⁹ Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. ¹⁰Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; ¹¹**not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;** ¹²rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; ¹³distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

4. All that we do should be done heartily for the Lord – not for men.

Read Colossians 3:23 ²²Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: ²³**and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;** ²⁴knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

5. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.

Read Ecclesiastes 9:10 (from verse 7) ⁷Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works. ⁸Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment. ⁹Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun. ¹⁰**Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.**

6. For the works of Christ, Epaphroditus regarded not his own life.

Read Philippians 2:30 (from verse 24) ²⁴*But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.* ²⁵*Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you **Epaphroditus**, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.* ²⁶*For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.* ²⁷*For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.* ²⁸*I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.* ²⁹*Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:* ³⁰***because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.***

F. Zealous Toward the Saints.

1. Epaphras had a great zeal for the saints in the churches in Colosse, in Laodicea, and in Hierapolis.

Read Colossians 4:12-13 ¹²*Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.* ¹³*For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.*

2. The house of Stephanas addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints

Read 1 Corinthians 16:15 ¹⁵*I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) ¹⁶that ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.*

3. Believers are admonished to practice **fervent charity** towards themselves.

Read 1 Peter 4:7-8 *⁷But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. ⁸And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. ⁹Use hospitality one to another without grudging.*

Our love for one another needs to be “On Fire”.

G. Zealous for Church Purity.

1. A church is **espoused** – Jesus is the bridegroom with the church His bride.

Read 2 Corinthians 11:2 *¹Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. ²For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. ³But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

Also read John (the Baptist) in 3:25-29 *²⁵Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. ²⁶And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.*

²⁷John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. ²⁸Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. ²⁹He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

Jesus is the bridegroom with the church His bride.

As a bride of Christ, what does this mean for our church?

Do we do it?

Can we improve?

2. A bride is to remain a **chaste virgin** until she is presented to her husband. For a church this means MORAL and DOCTRINAL purity.

The application of “MORAL and DOCTRINAL purity” means what for any church?

3. The church was instructed to purge out the erring church member(s) in order to maintain it’s purity (verse 6 below).

Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-7 [from verse 1 for context – Paul speaking about Moral Disorders at the church of Corinth]:

¹It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. ²And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. ³For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, ⁴in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

⁶Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? ⁷Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: ⁸therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

4. Later, in the 2nd epistle to the Corinthians, Paul spoke to these hard and distasteful instructions he had provided the church previously concerning church discipline.

He noted the church’s commendable **ATTITUDE** in finally dealing with the “sin in the camp.” This is expressed in 2nd Corinthians 7:11:

¹¹For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what

indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Paul's points:

- a. *what carefulness it wrought in you,*
- b. *what clearing of yourselves,*
- c. *what indignation,*
- d. *what fear,*
- e. *what vehement desire,*
- f. *what zeal,*
- g. *what revenge*

This is the attitude a church must have toward sin if it is to remain pure.

Note: The correct attitude toward a sinning member(s) is given in 2 Corinthians 2:5-11:

⁵But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all. ⁶Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. ⁷So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. ⁸Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. ⁹For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. ¹⁰To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; ¹¹lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Church discipline is also available and discussed in detail at

Lesson 3 – The Church which can be viewed at:

http://www.wetmorebaptistchurch.com/Education/ABCs-basic/ABCs_Basic.html

5. Many churches exhibit a care-less attitude about doctrine, standards, and expectation from their members. **They are in grave danger of losing their purity!**

God told the insipid (lacking flavor, vigor, and/or interest) church of the Laodiceans to: be zealous and to repent.

Read Revelation 3:19 (from verse 14) ***¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.***

Notes on being zealous:

- A zealot is a fanatic. The word fanatic has been abbreviated to “fan.” A great example of being a fan can be seen in the actions of true sports fans.
- Sadly, many Christians believe a fanatic is anyone who loves Jesus more than they do.
- It is easier to cool down a fanatic than to warm up a corpse.
- Hell trembles when men kindle (light or set on fire, arouse or inspire, and/or be aroused)
- From C.H. Spurgeon: “If by excessive zeal we die before reaching the average age of a man, worn out in the Master’s service, then glory be to God – we shall have so much less of the world and so much more of Heaven!”

In summary, be zealous:

- A. For The Word of God.
- B. In Prayer.
- C. Over the House of God.
- D. For the Great Commission.
- E. Of Good Works.
- F. Toward the Saints.
- G. For Church Purity.

Memory Verse: Galatians 4:18 (from verse 12) *¹²Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all. ¹³Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. ¹⁴And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. ¹⁶Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? ¹⁷They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. ¹⁸**But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.** ¹⁹My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, ²⁰I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.*