

# Zeal And Knowledge

Sunday PM 07/10/22

**Romans 10:1** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. **2** For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. **3** For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

## INTRODUCTION:

In the text under consideration, the author addresses the “Zeal” and the “Knowledge” of his countrymen. These two words present an interesting study.

“**Zeal**” defined: Literally, “Heat”, “Ardor in the pursuit of anything.” “Fervor”, intense devotion, eagerness, or enthusiasm

“**Knowledge**” defined: In a religious sense it means “A clear understanding of the will, or word of God.”

**2 Peter 1:5** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

**Ephesians 5:17** Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **2 Tim. 2:15.**

*In this lesson we want to learn the necessity of both.*

### I) ZEAL Is Demanded.

A) It was required of the church at Laodicea.

**Revelation 3:19** "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

1. We often think of zeal as an emotion and out of our control. Either you have it you don't.
2. The call to repent shows it is a course of action we can control. We determine our level of zeal.

**B) It is good to be zealous in a good thing.**

***Galatians 4:17*** They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. **18** But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.

1. No one should apologize for being zealous.
2. If it is worth doing it is worth doing to the best of your ability.

**C) Zeal can be contagious. (Provokes others)**

***2 Corinthians 9:2*** for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority.

1. Either we will mimic their zeal or we will feel uncomfortable and find somewhere else to go.
2. Have you ever gone to a game and just sat there? No sense of involvement, not rooting for either side. It is hard to do.

**D) Christians are to be “Zealous of good works.”**

***Titus 2:11*** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, **12** teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, **14** who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

1. If it is found in the word of God it is a “good work”
2. One of the qualifications of an elder is to desire to do the work of an elder. Helping your neighbor is a “good work”, bringing up your children in the admonition and word of the Lord is a good work, teaching is a good work. All should be done with a sense of warmth, fire in our bellies.

**II) ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE IS ACTIVITY WITHOUT GUIDANCE.**

**A) Those who crucified Christ were zealous**

1. They were determined to do so.

**Matthew 27:19** While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." **20** But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. **21** The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" **22** Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" **23** Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!";

**Acts 3:12** So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? **13** "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. **14** "But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **15** "and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. **16** "And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. **17** "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

2. Ignorance is not an excuse; it may be a reason but it is not an excuse.
3. A lot of bad things happen due to ignorance, people die or get injured, explosions happen, etc. due to ignorance.

**B) Good people do bad things in ignorance**

1. Simon Peter.

**Matthew 17:4** Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." **5** While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

- a. Like many others, Simon Peter did not truly comprehend who Jesus was, what it meant to be the Son of God.
- b. Peter did not understand Jesus being put to death was part of God's plan for our redemption.

**Matthew 26:51** And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. **52** But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

2. Saul of Tarsus.

**Acts 9:1** Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

**Acts 26:9** "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

- a. How many people today are just like Saul of Tarsus?
- b. Young men today dedicate a whole year of their life to do missionary work. They are zealous but are they teaching the word of God?

3. Jewish nation.

**Romans 10:1** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. **2** For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. **3** For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the

### ***righteousness of God.***

- a. They were traveling from one synagogue to another, one city to another, one country to another, and one continent to another to stop the Gospel of Christ.
  - b. They weren't doing so because they were atheists.
4. Many, today, like the Athenians of old, are zealous in their activity, but ignorant of God and what he really requires.

***Acts 17:22*** Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; **23** "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

- a. I today see many church buildings today where the Gospel is not taught.
- b. Many today are worshipping a false God in a way not prescribed by God

### **III) THE DANGER OF ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE.**

#### **A) Saul's zeal made "havoc" of the church.**

1. He was having men and women put into prison and tried to get them to deny their Savior.

***Acts 8:3*** As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

2. His zeal did not make him right.

#### **B) Zeal of Israelites led them away from God. *Rom. 10:1-3*;**

1. They were blinded to the truth as they would not listen nor see the fulfillment of prophecies, the miracles of Jesus, His teaching, and even His resurrection did not turn many to God.

C) Apollos was zealous, but lacked knowledge.

**Acts 18:24** Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. **25** This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.

1. He was later taught more perfectly. Which shows his sincerity but he was still teaching in ignorance until.

**Acts 18:26** So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

2. Zeal without knowledge leads to error, persecution, fanaticism, and every extreme. Let us examine ourselves lest we be zealous for a party, name, creed, etc., and not for Christ and his church.

IV) **KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT ZEAL IS UNDERSTANDING WITHOUT ACTIVITY.**

A) A danger we must be careful.

1. We know or at least think we know the Word of God.
2. We have been doing the same things for years and are comfortable in our religion.
  - a. Know our parking space, our pew, our songs, our routine, etc.
  - b. It is possible we lose our heat, fervent desire, love for the Lord, etc.

B) Some Examples of it

1. The church in Sardis.

**Revelation 3:1** "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things

*says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. 3 "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.*

2. The church at Laodicea.

**Revelation 3:14** *"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*

- a. Perhaps they were asleep at the wheel, just going through the motions.
- b. Neither Sardis nor Laodicea had any doctrinal error, nothing said about immoral activity, neither had a Jezebel, but both were told to repent.
- c. Many, today, know what God wants them to do, but they don't do it.

**Conclusion:**

Which is worse, zeal without knowledge or knowledge without zeal? Zeal makes us feel good and excited. Knowledge appeals to our intellect. But one without the other is bad. We must strive to be of sincere heart, fervent in our service, making sure we are acting upon the word of God.

**Romans 10:1** *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.*