

ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS

Part III – Zeal Displayed

Introduction: Titus 2:11-15

1. God's grace makes salvation available to all men.
2. Yet, God's grace also teaches us to be zealous of good works.
3. We have seen zeal defined as a burning desire toward that which is good.
4. We have seen how zeal can be misapplied as jealousy, worldliness, or pride.
5. We have seen the four characteristics of zeal: *fervor*, *urgency*, *work*, and *steadfastness*.
6. In this lesson, we will see zeal displayed in the work of the church.

I. Zeal in Benevolence

- A. God is benevolent toward mankind (Matt. 5:44-45; Acts 14:17; Rom. 5:8).
- B. He wants His children to be benevolent to those in need (Luke 6:27-36; Gal. 6:9-10; Titus 3:8; Heb. 13:16; Jam. 2:15-16; 1 John 3:17-18).
- C. Yet, for our benevolence to be sacrificial, it must be done with zeal.
 1. When opportunities arise, we will seek ways to help.
 - a. Often difficult in our society – welfare, govt. programs, etc.
 - b. With wisdom we will give – to those truly in need.
 - c. With wisdom we will seek alternatives...
 - i. Offer other kinds of help (treatment, etc.)
 - ii. Offer food or gas instead of money
 2. We will have our eyes open for opportunities, and even seek them out.
- D. We must be especially diligent when it comes to the needs of our brethren.
 1. Consider the situation in the first century (cf. Rev. 13:17).
 2. Consider the example of the early church (Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-37).
 3. Consider the care for the suffering in Jerusalem (Acts 11:29; 2 Cor. 9).
- E. We must not overlook the need for visitation and prayer (Jam. 1:27; Matt. 25:34-40; etc.).
- F. We must never forget the example and command of our Lord (Luke 12:13-33; 18:18-30; cf. 1 Tim. 6:17-19).

II. Zeal in Edification

- A. It is the duty of Christians to edify one another and to strengthen the church (Acts 15:32; 1 Cor. 14:3-5, 26; Eph. 4:12, 16).
- B. In order to accomplish this goal, zeal is an absolute necessity.
- C. The church is edified by three primary things: education, worship, and fellowship.
- D. We must have zeal in education.
 1. Personal Bible study (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11)
 2. Attending Bible classes
 3. Participating in Bible classes / VBS
 4. Teaching Bible classes / VBS / other studies
 5. Gospel Meetings, etc.
 6. Daily exhortation (Heb. 3:12-13)
- E. We must have zeal in worship.

1. In attendance (Heb. 10:25)
 2. In participation – with reverence and thought for others
 3. In singing – to teach and admonish (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
 4. In praying
 5. In studying
 6. In giving
 7. In communion
- F. We must have zeal in fellowship.
1. Desire to be together (Rom. 12:10; Acts 2:46-47; 5:42; 6:1; 16:5)
 2. Seek opportunities for fellowship
 3. Participate in opportunities of fellowship
- G. If we want the church to grow in strength, we must labor with zeal to build up the body of Christ.

III. Zeal in Evangelism

- A. The Tragedy of Misguided Zeal in Evangelism
1. The religious world is filled with those who “have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge” (Romans 10:2).
 2. The Jews of Jesus’ day (Matt. 23:15; cf. Mark 7:6-13; Matt. 15:13)
 3. Saul of Tarsus (Acts 26:9; 22:3-4; Gal. 1:14)
 4. The Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:12-13)
 5. Mormons / Jehovah’s Witnesses / Muslims
 6. Megachurches / Denominations
 7. Anti-ism – *zeal for the Word, but binding where God has not*
 8. Liberalism – *zeal for the lost, but uses gimmicks, entertainment, etc.*
- B. The Tragedy of Evangelism without Zeal
1. Too often, the world has more zeal for worldly things than the church has for lost souls (cf. Luke 16:8).
 2. We say: “If you build it, they will come.”
 3. We invite folks to service, but not to study one on one.
 4. We set a good example, but never discuss the Bible.
 5. We fail to admit the reality and severity of Hell!
- C. True Zeal in Evangelism
1. Fervor
 - a. Born out of a love for the lost (Luke 19:10; 15:4-7, 32; 1 Jn. 4:9-11; Heb. 7:25)
 - b. Manifested in sacrificial action (Acts 17:6; 2:42-47; Col. 1:23)
 2. Urgency
 - a. Souls are at stake (Matt. 16:26)
 - b. Eternity is at stake (2 Tim. 4:1-2; John 4:4, 34-35)
 3. Industry
 - a. Go (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16)
 - b. Preach (Acts 5:25, 40-42; 8:4; 9:20; etc.)
 4. Steadfastness (2 Cor. 11:23-28; Acts 15:36)

Conclusion:

1. Zeal is contagious (2 Cor. 9:1-2).
2. The example of Jesus (John 2:13-17)
3. The reward of faithfulness (Psalm 126:5-6)