

## What Kind of Zeal Do We Have?

**Text:** Titus 2:11-14

### **Introduction:**

1. Phinehas (Numbers 25), the Lord (Ezekiel 5:13), Jesus (John 2:13-17), Saul (Acts 22:3; Philippians 3:6), Jews (Romans 10:2) – what is it that each of these has in common?... Zeal!
2. What is “zeal”? - some other ways the word is translated are “fervent” and “jealous.” *Webster’s Dictionary* defines the word as “enthusiasm in pursuit” of something.
3. No one doubts that there are literally millions who are thus “religiously zealous” — but what kind of zeal does God expect us to have? What will proper zeal do? ... Lets see.

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. What Kinds of Zeal Do We Read Of In God’s Word?**

1. Acts 21:20 – Zealous, but of the wrong law. Whether it be the Old Testament (Colossians 2:14; Galatians 5:1-4) or any other religious law of Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc, their zeal, not matter how great, is misguided (Matthew 23:18-20; Colossians 3:17).
2. Acts 22:3 – Zealous but without true knowledge. One cannot deny the zeal of Saul (who became the apostle Paul), but he was so misguided in his zeal that he persecuted Christ and His true followers (Acts 9:5; 22:4). Like Saul, many today are guilty of the same thing, and generally because of the same problem, they are zealous not of the true things of God, but the traditions of their fathers (Galatians 1:14; Matthew 15:9).
3. Titus 2:11-14 – Thankfully there are those who have the zeal the Lord desires, a zeal that seeks and submits to His will! These are the ones who become as Paul was when he found and obeyed the truth (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

#### **II. How Do We Gain Such A Zeal?**

1. Titus 2:11-12 ... it is taught!
2. Note some examples...
  - (1) Acts 2:41-42
  - (2) Acts 8:12
3. Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Are you zealous? You are to be commended for having zeal — religion without zeal is nothing more than a hobby. But you must make sure that your zeal is proper.
2. To be proper our zeal must be as good Bible examples show:
  - (1) Christ (John 2:13-17; 4:34)
  - (2) Paul (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:4-7)
3. When we have such zeal we will respond to the truth as did others in the New Testament