

## ZEAL ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE

Lee Moses

Zeal permeates the character of every memorable man and woman of God. Can you imagine how the great figures in Biblical history would be remembered were it not for their zeal? David eagerly went out to fight the champion of the Philistines, the giant Goliath, certain that the blessing of the Lord ensured his victory. But what if David would have had to be coerced to fight Goliath? Paul was willing to endure whatever befell him, including death, for the cause of His Lord. Again, what if Paul would have been timid in such times, not fully driven by his zeal and love for the Lord? If such were consistently the case, the Bible would be full of Jonahs, John Marks, and inhabitants of Meroz.

Lack of zeal may be a mark of other improper attitudes. Other improper attitudes affect zeal while lack of zeal affects other improper attitudes. When Solomon sank to his lowest point of godlessness, he also sank to his lowest point of apathy, devoid of zeal, crying, "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity" (Eccl. 1:2). Yet as he progressed through his search for happiness and meaning in life, he discovered a pearl of truth: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (9:10). As one makes his way through his earthly pilgrimage, he will find himself much more successful, happy, and satisfied if he pursues that course with zeal.

Zeal in itself is not a worthy goal. Of the first century Jews it is written, "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" (Rom 10:2). They apparently had a strong desire to do what was right, and they did what they thought was right with all their heart. Still, they stood condemned (vv. 1, 3). Paul said of his pre-Christian life, "Concerning zeal, persecuting the church" (Phil. 3:6). Again, this is a zeal which led away from salvation and toward destruction.

Zeal without knowledge is widespread in the religious world. Many sects pack into meeting houses, conducting emotionally charged services replete with arm-swaying, powerful vocal solos, and tear-jerking personal testimonies—yet they find themselves in the same situation as Saul of Tarsus and the other first-century Jews who rejected Christ. Zeal must be based upon knowledge of God's word. Zeal without knowledge is ineffectual, and so is knowledge without zeal. As Jesus rebuked the church at Laodicea, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:15-16).

It is a knowledge of God's word which will, if received correctly, increase our zeal. Initial obedience to the Gospel is something that is done "from the heart" (Rom. 6:17). Christians are to continue to "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself" (Luke 10:27). Such zeal is not difficult to understand when one considers the magnificence of God, that man is created in God's image, and that God has given the greatest sacrifice ever for you because he wants you to dwell with Him forever. Let us allow these wondrous truths to develop in us a zeal according to knowledge.

*"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" (Col. 3:23-24).*

## It Is Time To Take A Stand

It has been said that "regardless of how long it took to create every great society in the history of the world, they all fell in one generation." This is a chilling thought. It begs the question; can that happen to the church? We fully understand what the Bible says in Luke 1:33, "and of His kingdom there shall be no end." But does that extend to the church in America, our state and even our community? We don't think so. We know full well there will always be a church of Christ somewhere in this world but that doesn't mean in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

You may think we are way off, but look at what has happened to the church in this country. You cannot travel and be certain that even though the sign says "the church of Christ" that it in fact practices all things according to the Bible's instructions. The same unscriptural things in the denominations are working their way into the church. We must remember John 4:24 and make sure we "worship Him in spirit and in truth." It doesn't say to "worship Him according to the elders or the preacher!"

When whatever is happening doesn't align perfectly with the Bible, get away from that place as soon as you can. Point out the problems on your way out perhaps, but get away from anything that practices against what God has said, or what He hasn't said.

Our souls are in danger if we sit by in the name of patience to see how things work out. Fate has a nasty habit of closing the doors at the worst possible time. Please do not be caught in an unscriptural practice hoping that things change.

We have heard recently of female elders being appointed in the church. We already know that the push for instrumental music is gaining traction in many areas. There are churches that offer "traditional" services as well as "contemporary" services. One does not read of "traditional" or "contemporary" Christians in the Bible... Read Acts 11:26, it only says "Christians." We are Christians only! Either we are, or we are not!

It is time to take a stand and be counted for God in our community, state and country. This requires bravery, strength of character and Bible knowledge... Pray for each other, that we all gain strength, knowledge of the Bible and then the bravery needed to defend the church of Christ and the Gospel to make a difference in all these things being forced upon us!

All must be done in love, no less than Christ wants us to be... but make no doubt He wants us working for His cause in all things! Our souls, the souls of our children, grandchildren, and all our families depend on it. May God continue to bless our congregation in our efforts to be "His Bright Shining Light" in this town!

(Written by an unknown author and adapted for the church at Greensboro Road)

# NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

### Remember in Prayer:

*Virginia London* will have surgery scheduled soon as a result of her recent thyroid cancer diagnosis.

*Nicole Nelson* will see doctors in Memphis the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month concerning a liver transplant.

*Gretchen Pruitt* continues to undergo therapy in NEA, Room 5215.

*Mittie Stallings* came home last week but is very weak.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists.

Please update us if needed.

Pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.

*Micah and Callie Tindall*

### In Other News:

If you have pictures of your children from Bible classes earlier this summer that can be added to our bulletin boards, please send them to Martha Kee. Take time to look and see the sweet pictures of our little ones. Also, you can find Bible lessons for our young ones of all ages on [theleahjournal.com](http://theleahjournal.com). Let us know if you would like them printed.

Please check to see if any dishes on one of the tables in the foyer belongs to you.

Note: Due to uncertainties related to Covid, our annual Fish Fry at the Odens' will be cancelled this year.

### Those Privileged To Serve

September 13, 2020

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard  
Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer  
Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris  
Bible Reading: Jeff Presley  
Preacher: Noah Flanrey

#### LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Randy Oden  
Mitch Mosley Ben Johns  
Scott Pratt Jimmy Powell  
Logan Snyder Ryan Manley

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Nichols

#### SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard  
Opening Prayer: J. L. May  
Closing Prayer: David Loggins  
Preacher: Noah Flanrey

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

September 16, 2020  
Song Leader: Noah Flanrey  
Opening Prayer: Scottie Blanchard  
Closing Prayer: Dan Nichols

#### DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

September 16, 2020  
Jody Pickens

### NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

September 6, 2020

Sunday Bible Study 92  
Sunday AM Worship 97  
Sunday PM Worship 85  
Wednesday Bible Study 89  
Contribution \$6,866

*“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”*

*Proverbs 20:1*

# The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

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“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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## KeeNotes

In past years, parents saw their children as gifts lent to them by God to train them to be lent back to God. These parents were helped by many members of the church who played a part in the development of our youth. This has changed, and the lack of church leaders today is the evidence for this.

Have you ever thought about those influences which developed Mark? Nothing is said about his father, but his mother is specifically mentioned as using her house as the place for the church to meet (Acts 12:12). Such had to impact this future leader of the church and helped develop him to become the author of one of the gospels. Mark had a cousin, Barnabas, who was part of his development (Col. 4:10). There is no way to know the details as to what happened, but when Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch after taking benevolent help to Jerusalem, both of them were part of taking young Mark from his hometown to be part of the work in Antioch. Mark became part of the team which first took the gospel throughout the island nation of Cyprus. Mark's mother started the young man in the right direction, but would he have ever developed had not members of the church played a vital role?

Barnabas took another young Christian and helped develop Saul of Tarsus. He likely was not young in age but was young in the faith. As a youth Saul was taught, most likely by his parents, a vital truth. Paul said, “I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men” (Acts 24:16, see also Acts 23:1). This truth enabled those in the church to develop the future apostle. The “young” Christian, Paul, was taken under the wing of the “older” Christian, Barnabas, when the church did not even want Paul to be used by the church (Acts 9:26-27). Later Barnabas traveled over 150 miles to bring the “young” Christian from Tarsus to help the church in Antioch. There may have never been a Saul without his parents laying the foundation, and there may have never been a Saul without a Barnabas helping develop him.

There are other illustrations which show this truth even more vividly, but let me urge you to look inwardly to see what role you can play in impacting the destiny of the church—not as a parent, but as one who sees the worth of young Mark, or “young” Paul and does all you can. We all can do more!

(by Dan Jenkins)

### SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols  
Randy Oden  
Jody Pickens

### DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard  
Jerry Dodson  
Mike Felts  
Jason Garland  
Marshall Lands  
Mark Wooten

### EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

### MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes  
Samrit Kammanee  
Arnold Kelley  
Guyana, South America  
Warren, PA

### SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

*Hear* the Word of God  
*Romans 10:17*  
*Believe* the Word of God  
*John 8:24*

*Repent* of your sins  
*Luke 13:3*

*Confess* your faith in Jesus as the Son of God  
*Romans 10:9,10*

*Be Baptized* for the remission of your sins  
*Acts 2:38*

*Live faithfully*  
*Revelation 2:10*

*“Where there is no vision, the people perish....”*  
*Proverbs 29:18*

*God Give Us 2020 Vision in 2020*

Visit Our Website: [greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com](http://greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com)