Religious Zeal
Gal. 4:17-18

Introduction:
A. The value of zeal depends on what we mix with it.
   1. It can be productive or destructive.
   2. It can be admirable or detestable.
   3. It can be commendable or condemnable.
B. The display of zeal may differ from person to person.
   1. Depends on one's primary convictions.
   2. Depends, also, on personal temperament.
   3. Depends, also, on physical energy.
C. The exercise of zeal must mixed with other factors.

Discussion:
I. Zeal Needs to Be Properly Fueled. (cf. Zeal like fire)
A. Fueled with knowledge rather than ignorance. (Rom. 10:1-4).
   1. Jews had destructive ignorant zeal. (Acts 3:14-17; 8:3; Phil. 3:6; 1 Tim. 1:13).
B. Fueled with sobriety rather than excitability.
   1. Life of calmness rather than "fanaticism" ("fan") (Phil. 4:5; Tit. 2:6-8).
   2. Worship in peace of reasoned devotion rather an confusion of spontaneity. (1 Cor. 14:26-33, 40).
      a. Little use for spiritual "cheerleaders" or "super-salesmen"
II. Zeal Needs to Have Proper Objectives.
A. Zealous to do good works - "zealous in a good thing" (cf. Tit. 2:14; 2 Tim. 3:16,17)
B. Zealous to promote Truth rather than a party. (v. 17 cf. Mt. 23:15).
   1. Partisans zealously court the gullible. (cf. 2 Tim. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-18).
III. Zeal Needs to Be Attended by Proper Precautions.
A. Jesus urged would-be disciples to "count the cost" (Lk. 14:75 ff.).
B. We need to look before leaping, be aware of responsibility. (Jas. 1:3; Mt. 7:1).

Conclusion: Once we have been careful to properly fuel zeal and define objectives:
A. Let us constantly re-kindler our zeal for good works.
B. Let us control our zeal.
C. Let us praise only zeal for good.