

On Fire, or Burned Out?

081317AM

Text: John 2:12-17

- It's hard for some people to imagine Jesus cleansing the temple as he did, but He did it twice, after his first miracle (Jn. 2:13-17) and at His final return to Jerusalem (Mat. 21:12-13), and will cleanse it one final time – 1 Cor. 3:16-17.
- Psa. 69:9 – Dual prophesy of David “For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.”
- Zeal is from a word that means to be heated, or to boil.

Are we consumed with zeal for the church of Christ, the “house of God” (1 Tim. 3:15)?

- Eph. 3:10-11 – The church is the wisdom of God in its existence and mission.
 - Are you a critic or a supporter of the church?
 - When is the last time you prayed for the church?
- Acts 28:20 – Jesus shed his blood to purchase the church; Eph. 5:25-27 – loved the church and gave Himself for it, to sanctify, purify, and present to Himself holy, without spot and wrinkle.
- Are zealous for the church of Christ? Will we uphold and defend her from all enemies?

Are we consumed with zeal for the Gospel of Christ? Mk. 8:34-38.

- Nothing to be ashamed of! Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:8; 1 Pet. 4:16; 1 Jn. 2:28.
- Jeremiah of old – Jer. 20:9 “Then I said, “I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name.” But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.”
- 1 Tim. 4:16 – It is only by continuing in the doctrine of Christ that we can remain saved and teach others how to be saved.
- Those unfaithful to Christ corrupt His doctrine to fit themselves – Rom. 10:2 “For I bear them witness that they

have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge”

- Result is a perversion, cf. Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Pet. 3:16.
- Where does 2 Jn. 9-11 fit into modern “I'm okay, you're okay” theology?
- The doctrine of Christ is being challenged today.
 - The worship of the church.
 - The organization of the church.
 - Moral standards & character of God's people.
- Let us demand more than a watered down gospel (2 Tim. 4:3-4).
- Are we zealous the doctrine of Christ? Set for the defense of the Gospel (Phil. 1:17)?
- **Are we consumed with zeal for the mission of Christ?**
- Lk. 19:10 – Came to seek and save the lost.
- Mat. 28:19-20 – commissioned disciples to make disciples of all nations.
 - Lk. 19:41 – Are we grieved by lost souls? Cf. Rom. 9:2-3.
 - 1 Tim. 2:1-4 – Do we pray for lost souls?
 - Are we zealous for the mission of Christ?

Decision...

- 2 Cor. 9:2 – The zeal of the Corinthians motivated others – it is contagious!
- What does it take to get us zealous, heated up, for Christ and His church?
- The Bible reveals three temples – Solomon's, Zerubbabel's/Herod's, Christ's church.
- He cleansed the temple twice; a third and final cleansing is yet to come – Mat. 13:47-50.

IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

If Jesus came to your house to spend a
day or two--
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what
you'd do.
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room
to such an honored Guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him
would be the very best,
And you would keep assuring Him
you're glad to have Him there--
That serving Him in your own home is
joy beyond compare.

But-- when you saw Him coming,
would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to
your heavenly Visitor?
Or would you have to change your
clothes before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines and put the
Bible where they'd been?
Would you turn off the radio and hope
He hadn't heard?
And wish you hadn't uttered that last'
loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and
put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or
would you rush about?
And I wonder--if the SAVIOUR spent
a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things
you always do?
Would you go right on doing the things
you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does
from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep
up its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal
to say a table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always
sing, and read the books you read,
And let Him know the things on which
your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere
you'd planned to go?
Or would you, maybe, change your plans
for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet
your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away
until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay
forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief
when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the
things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend
some time with you.

~Lois Blanchard Eades