



"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" - Hebrews 6:19

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday - July 16, 2023

Zeal Without Knowledge

by Troy Spradlin

The Apostle Paul wrote, *"For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge."* (Romans 10:2) How many people do you know who truly love God and openly express it in public? Yet, how many of those enthusiastic people actually know what they are talking about? ... That sounds a little harsh and judgemental, I know, but this is exactly what Paul is dealing with here in this verse. He is saying that he knows people who shamelessly talk about God and display their faith with fervor, but they don't really understand, or know the God they claim to love so much. In reality, they are still missing the mark.

Personally, I enjoy being around people who constantly talk about Jesus, who frequently praise God for everything, or who are just so enthusiastic about Christianity that they cannot contain themselves. Their zeal is so contagious! It lifts me up and helps me to start expressing my own faith more boldly and openly. The truth is, **we could all stand to be more intentionally open and candid about our faith.**



However, it also saddens me at the same time that many of my zealous, religious friends are not as knowledgeable in the Word of God as they should be. In fact, some of them have admitted that they have never read the whole Bible. They may have read bits and pieces, but certainly not its entirety. So in a sense, they are very similar to the Jews that Paul was writing about, in that they have zeal without knowledge.

Did you know that even Paul himself once had that enthusiastic fervor, that overarching zealosity for God, but without full knowledge? In his letter to the Galatians, he wrote, *"And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers."* (1:14). But, he later came to realize the error of his ways and explained, *"For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."* (1 Cor 15:9) Partly due to his former conduct against the Lord's church, Paul also considered himself the "chief of sinners" (1 Tim 1:15).

There is no doubt that Paul loved God dearly. He had a strong faith. After all, He was a *"Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless."* (Phil 3:5-6) He thought he was doing the right thing by defending the faith of the people of Yahweh, but he was dead wrong! He thought he was serving God and His people, but instead he was persecuting His people (Acts 9:4-5). At the time, Paul considered himself obedient to God, but in reality, he was disobedient. Paul certainly had zeal, but he lacked the one thing that was needed, to accept Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, as was written about Him in the Scriptures (cf. Luke 24:27). Paul needed the right knowledge and to apply that knowledge correctly ... and he eventually did! (cf. Acts 26:19)

Being zealous for the Lord is a wonderful attribute to have. To openly and regularly express one's faith with enthusiasm and boldness is a much needed and encouraged behavior among the Lord's disciples. Talk about Jesus more. Give God the glory every chance you can. Let your faith be on fire! Just remember that **it is not okay to believe whatever you want simply because you are zealous about it.** Instead, let us have a strong passion for things that are of sound doctrine (Titus 2:1) and for doing good (Galatians 6:10). Zeal combined with knowledge can be a powerful force for good.

6745 Margaret Street / margarst@bellsouth.net / 850.623.8191
www.margaretstreetchurchofchrist.org

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



It's Okay To Not Be Okay

by: Casey Bearden

I ran across an article this past week that I wrote a few years ago, and it struck me how much I needed to see those words, and how relevant they still are almost 4 years later. It came on the heels of a fellow minister who took his own life, and although it's been some time and we're not dealing with that particular event, we all are dealing with something. The reminder to me is that the devil doesn't rest and life keeps moving, and I needed to be reminded about how to deal with our valley moments. Here's the article...

To quote a brother's introductory line from an article he had to write concerning his late colleague, "*Life is hard. Life is unfair. It's okay to not be okay.*" This past week is a week I'll never forget. A brother and fellow Youth Minister, who we all looked up to and modeled so many of our ministries after, took his own life. There remains so many questions, so much hurt, so much pain, and so much confusion. That is okay. It's natural to go through the grieving process.

What isn't okay is that a brother took his own life, and felt that decision was his only way out of whatever valley he found himself in. He wasn't okay, and didn't feel as if that was okay. Please know, this wasn't the will or work of God, but of Satan. Satan doesn't care who we are or what kind of impact we have on others in the world. His only objective is to derail the church by any means possible, especially if that means removing the influence of someone so influential. As the church, we must take a stand against this threat. The devil will not win because God has already won. We must protect that victory, those who live within it, and bring others into it. In order to succeed in this, each of us need to realize something about ourselves and others in the church - we ALL hurt, we ALL wish we knew why bad things happen, we ALL are struggling, and we may never understand any of it.

This is where the church really should shine, as we should embrace the fact that we can't do this faith thing alone. When we try to do that, this outcome becomes a possibility. That's not okay. There are many of us who aren't okay at the moment, and we need to know that's okay. We may be the ones those people are reaching out to - they need to hear from us that it's okay to not be okay, because we're there to help, listen, mourn, love, and battle with them. A fellow minister once said, "*You're either going into a crisis, in the middle of a crisis, or coming out of a crisis.*" The reality is that we all have mountaintop moments and valley moments, and we all need to compassionately love and support one another through all of it. This is how God will be glorified. God is good. God is just. God is righteous. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

That's what we need to know the most - we have a Savior that relates and identifies with us, even in the darkest valleys. Jesus experienced temptation, loss, frustration, and anxiety. Knowing that God in the flesh understands all of those emotions, we can more confidently approach the throne of grace, knowing help is available, and is already being given. We're not meant to have it all together. If we were, then we missed the whole point of Jesus. Knowing who He is, what he has done, what He has experienced on our behalf, teaches us that, sometimes, it's okay to not be okay. Don't beat yourself or others up when experiencing valley moments. It's a part of life. A part where we truly find how important the love of Jesus and the church really is.

In this moment, I pray for you. I don't know what you're going through and dealing with, but please know that God loves you, this church loves you, and so do I. Use this moment to reach out, if you haven't already. And please pray for this minister, his wife and the family. Please pray for those elders as they have the task of leading that congregation through this difficult moment, for the ministers as they try to fill a void, while working through their own grief, for those students as they try to understand and move forward, and for that congregation of the Lord's body to gain peace, guidance, and wisdom. Take this moment to entrust yourself to the beauty of the plan that God set in motion through Jesus and His church. Pray for yourself, for one another, and let's work for Heaven together. Blessings, love, and peace.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Recent/Urgent Requests

- Patricia Ann* - prayers, health (MZL)
- Terry Beaver family - loss of Terry (PaceCoC)
- Mike Brown* - stroke, recovery (former mem)
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Arva Fisher/family* - loss of brother, George
- Stefanie Jennings* - surgery, recovery
- Terry Jennings* - medical complication
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- Wendy Mauell* - broken foot, recovery
- Larry McDaniel* - recovery at SR Rehab
- Donald McGriff* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff* - recovery, heart appts.
- Elsa Nunes* - health, fell in the past. recovery
- Scott Shanahan - loss of father, Kevin
- Vonada family - loss of Troy*
- Gloria Vonada* - foot surgery / recovery
- Jan Whitney* - heart procedure, recovery
- Elsa Nunes* - loss of brother, Guillermo Deir

2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

- Brittany Parker* - Baptized
- Dawson Hitchcock* - Baptized
- Olivia Gingerich* - Baptized
- Lanie Scott* - Baptized
- Sharon Parker* - Baptized
- Terry & Judy Jennings* - Identified
- Josh & Stephanie Jennings* - Identified
- Laura Oliver* - Identified
- Jeremy & Amber Dunaway* - Identified

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Sherryn Canniff - homebound
- Josie Coons - hospice (McReynolds*)
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia* - Fort Walton Beach
- Betty Lee - homebound (D. Lee's mom*)
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Ina Ruth Miller*
- Ruth Phillips* - Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Mary Salinas* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith (Jeanna's mom) - Shut In

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Sharon Ates - recovery (Gallagher*)
- Bob Black - health (Lipford*)
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Winston Burnham* - health
- Sherryn Canniff* - health, pain
- Janice Carter* - tests, waiting on results
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Sherry Davis* - health
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham - recovery - heart failure
- Donald Hamilton - surgery, recover (McGriff)
- Daphne Hamilton - surgeries, health
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues (Alonna's friend)
- Barbara Helms* - health
- Chris Hollis - (McGriff)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Marcia Jones - (Kenya's* friend)
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Martin family* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Mary McGriff* - health, asthma
- Ron Miller - esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- August Smith - cleft palate (J.English*)
- Zylar Thompson - rescheduled surgery
- Julia Torpey* - health

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

Students in College

- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Nick Webb
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

Cancer

- Kandi Armand - (Bostwick*)
- Ron Bartanen* - cancer
- Darlene Baxley* - spread to her spine
- Darrell Bozeman*
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher*)
- Jack Davis*
- Pat Deforest*
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill*)
- Connie Moore - (Fulton*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Megan Sanders - brain cancer (Blisse*)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley* - good news!
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)
- Donnie Turner - cancer (Helms*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Japan
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

Directory Pictures
Make up pictures will be TODAY in the Library right after AM Services!

Dane Harrington (Deacon)
Joe Taylor (Deacon)
Mason Chandler
Trevor and Brooklyn Bostwick
The Dunaway family
The Gingerich family
Josh and Stephanie Jennings family
Sharon Parker



KINGDOM LEADERS
MEN'S MINISTRY

JOIN US!
Thurs July 20 @ 6:30 PM
Fellowship Hall



Summer Cookout

JULY 30TH
4 PM
SIGN UP AT THE INFO STATION!



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, JULY 16

MORNING

Opening Prayer Matt McReynolds
 Song Director Elliot Wilson
 Sermon Troy Spradlin
 "He is Worthy!"
 Scripture Reading Parker Godwin
 Revelation 4:8-11
 Closing Prayer Phillip Webb

Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Josh Jennings Judsen Jennings
 Cooper Jennings Brody Crider
 Seth Crider (Balcony)
 Comments Casey Bearden

EVENING

Opening Prayer Steve Fulton
 Singing Jake Armstrong
 Scripture Brett Napier
 Revelation 22:16-21
 Comments Casey Bearden

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep Chandler family
 PowerPoint Brooks Singley
 Greeters:..... Bob and Rhonda Locklin
 Secure Building Paul Lipford

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Summer Series Ray Brantley
 *Parting the Waters*
 Song Director Stephen English
 Opening Prayer Pat Mense

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 129
 AM Worship 165
 PM Worship 110
 Wed. Night Bible Class 131
 Contribution \$7,989

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming! You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is Thursday, by noon.
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa for Bible studies, meetings, etc.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.

BENEVOLENCE

Margaret Street CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOOD PANTRY
 Food Pickup : 8/8 @ 9:30 AM
 Preparing Boxes:
 8/9 @ 5:30 PM
 8/10 @ 9:30 AM
 Distribution : 8/10 @ 2:30 PM
 Please consider donating travel size toiletries!!

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!

Bible Study and Fellowship
 Every Thursday @ 10:30 AM
OWLS
 Older. Wiser. Lauded. Saints.

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for online giving

STAFF

Troy Spradlin Preacher / Minister
 cell: 850-910-2868
 spradlin.troy@gmail.com
 Casey Bearden Family Minister
 cell: 706-889-3222
 caseybearden@live.com
 Blisse Hatcher Church Secretary
 cell: 850-625-8911
 margarstcoc@gmail.com
 Scott Shanahan Missionary
 cell: 865-443-9856
 scottshanahan@hotmail.com
 Trevor Smoot Domestic Missionary
 cell: 937-417-4297
 smooterii@outlook.com

ELDERS

Rick Bird 994-3148
 bird1plus3@icloud.com
 Phillip Webb 232-7431
 pw_webb@hotmail.com
 Joe Wilson 206-8350
 jaw@wilsonharrell.com

CONTACT FOR JULY:

Primary..... Joe Wilson
 Secondary Phillip Webb

DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

Administration Troy Spradlin
 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
 Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington*
 Worship Blake Hatcher*
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden