

How Dare We Be Indifferent!

By Joe Chesser

It takes me by surprise every time I think about Jesus making a whip out of cords to drive people, sheep and cattle out of the temple, turning over the tables of the money changers scattering coins everywhere. I visualize fire in his eyes and passion in his voice as he said, "Get out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" (John 2:13-16). It surprises me because this is not the usual image of Jesus I see. Usually I think of Jesus more as a mild, unassuming teacher moving through the countryside helping those in need and telling them about the love of God. But that may be because that's the image of Jesus I prefer to see and imitate. That requires less of me than the prophecy the disciples remembered when they stood back and watched as Jesus cleared the temple: "Zeal for your house will consume me" (John 1:17). It's much easier to be indifferent.

As it was in the 1st century so it is in the 21st century. Consuming zeal and passion for the Lord surprises us. It's not something we see very often in the church, much less experience personally. That's not to say we are lacking passion, for we all have something we get excited about: baseball ... family ... camping ... cooking ... working ... money ... video games, etc. Jon Bloom wrote, "Passion and zeal are gauges that display what our heart treasures, and therefore what fuels our lives". The things we treasure are the things we are passionate about. Zeal for the things of God consumed Jesus. Bloom also wrote "Few things expose us more than comparing what God is passionate about with what we are passionate about."

This is where we begin to get uncomfortable. When it comes to the things of the Lord, most of us lean more toward indifference than we do zeal. Perhaps we have let the command to be zealous for the Lord slip past us. "Never be lacking in zeal but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11). This means being passionate for the things of the Lord is not an option for Christians any more than are the other commands in that passage (Romans 12:9-21). Indifference is not acceptable to the Lord ... indifference is a sin! The whole church at Laodicea was in spiritual danger because of their indifference (Revelation 3:16). Interestingly, the message Jesus sent to that church was to "be earnest and repent" (Revelation 3:19). Like them, perhaps the zeal we need most is the zeal to repent!

It is the consuming zeal of the Lord of hosts that offers redemption to lost sinners. God inspired Isaiah to tell of the coming of Christ to rule over God's kingdom and explained that the "zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this" (Isaiah 9:6-7). Because of this, God is expecting those who accept his salvation to also be "zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14 NKJV). We can't be indifferent about God and at the same time be like Jesus.

Drawing from the zeal of Jesus when he cleared the temple, "How dare we be indifferent!" Our prayer: whatever it takes, Lord, increase my zeal to do your will!!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838
Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732
March 11, 2018

WELCOME!

<u>Sunday</u>	Bible Class- 9:30 a.m. Worship- 10:30 a.m.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.
<u>Wednesday</u>	Bible Study-7:00pm

All the churches of Christ greet you.
ROMANS 16:16

Today's Sermon: What Are You Waiting For?

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

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Scripture: 2 Peter 1:3-11

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: Tuesday, March 13th, 10am. We will be studying Day 2 of the third chapter.**
- **Bill Colwell from World Bible School in TX will be here on April 14th to do a workshop presentation for the purpose of getting us involved in using that very effective resource for reaching the lost all over the world, as well as locally.**
- **5th Sunday Regional Singing @ Horseheads, April 29th, 4:30pm.**
- **Housewarming Celebration- Thursday, May 31st- Sunday, June 3rd. Speakers so far are Don Myers from Montgomery, AL, Larry Krause from Kittanning, PA, and Steve Connors from Horseheads, NY.**

Next Potluck: Next Sunday! March 18th Think Spring!



- We have accepted a bid to install the **baptistry water heater**, which will happen on Wednesday this week. The kitchen has been planned out and **a sink purchased**. Appliances are set approximately where they will be installed if you wish to go downstairs and have a look. **Flooring** has also been secured for the area.
- **Sandy and Arthur's son, Robin**, from Soldotna, AK will be visiting for almost a week, arriving on Tuesday night, on his way back from a trip to Jamaica.
- Our dear brother and sister, **Dave and Pat Halligan**, plan to be here with us this morning.

PRAYERS...

- Thank you, Lord for the **visitors** we have been welcoming since our change of location!
- **Donald's daughter Cindy and her daughter Mariska** need prayer.
- **Darlene** had a skin lesion removed from her nose on Thursday. She rejoices that the biopsy had a negative result.
- **Dara**, Darlene's sister, is searching for employment, as both of her current jobs have been cutting back hours.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** as she has radiation to deal with the mass on her lungs.
- **Lori Kashorek** has started her experimental chemo treatments, and we pray it will keep her lung cancer in check and not make her too sick to continue working as a music teacher.
- Pray for **Vicki Joice** as she continues Herceptin treatments until June. Also, pray that she doesn't become discouraged dealing with lymphedema on a daily basis.
- Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber** has metastatic breast cancer throughout her body. Her new chemo is causing her pain and weakness. She asks for prayers to help her deal with her impending death and leaving her two sons as they become teenagers.
- **Emily Barry** will have thyroid surgery on the 24th of April in Sayre. She has started a new job but is still hoping to get hired by the post office. She is also enrolled in an online university.
- **Patty and Ruthie's cousin Cathy's husband Bruce** has kidney cancer.
- Please pray for **José (Pancho) Rivera**, Sandy and Arthur's son in law, as he is trying to get his diabetes under control and suffering from anxiety. He wants to get back to work to relieve financial stress for his family.
- **Connie** is looking for work in the Sayre area. She asks for prayers for that effort. She also is looking for a reasonably priced car.
- **Ted** has been very ill with flu, and **Ethan** has suffered with ear infections. We are thankful that **Lani** is doing better after her second bout with the flu and sinus infections.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry :barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.