

**BE ZEALOUS LIKE PHINEHAS
(BUT NOT LIKE THE PHARISEES)**

Romans 10:1-4

he manifested such zeal
for My sake among them
Numbers 25:11 (NET)

- Numbers 25:11 (NET) 11 “Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites, when he manifested such zeal for my sake among them, so that I did not consume the Israelites in my zeal.

Phinehas' Zeal

- ◇ originated in God's zeal for His people
- ◇ obeyed God's authority carefully
- ◇ acted quickly when necessary
- ◇ righteous in God's eyes

- Understanding Phinehas' Zeal

- It originated in God's zeal for his people.
- It obeyed God's authority carefully.
- It acted when necessary, quickly.
- It was righteous in God's eyes.
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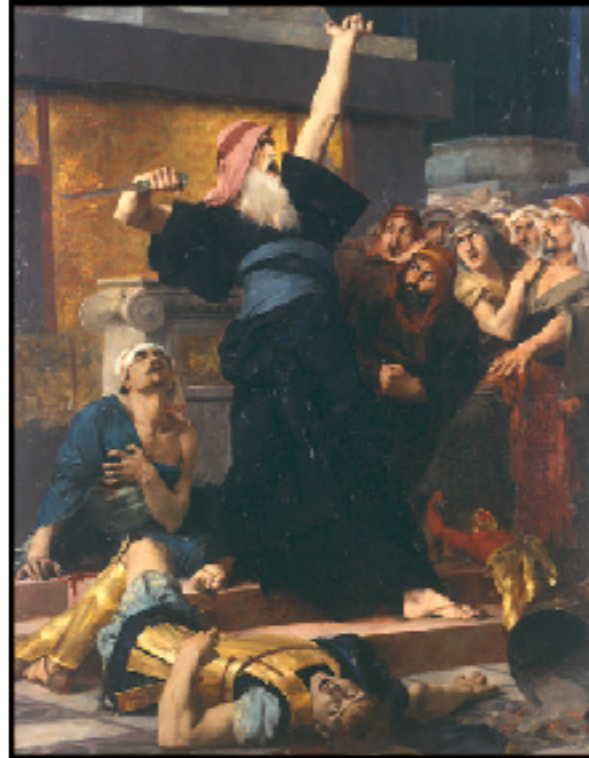
Antiochus Epiphanes

("God Manifest")

Greek ruler in Jerusalem
175 BC - 164 BC



- Antiochus Epiphanes (God Manifest, chosen name)
 - Greek ruler of a portion of Alexander the Great's empire
 - Began rule in 175 BC - 164 BC



Mattathias Ben Johanan

- Mattathias ben Johanan (Jewish priest)
 - Account is told in Maccabees (an apocryphal book): history from a Jewish perspective (not inspired scripture)



- 1 Maccabees 1:10 From them came forth a sinful root, Antiochus Epiphanes, son of King Antiochus; he had been a hostage in Rome. He began to reign in the one hundred thirty-seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.



- 1 Maccabees 1:41-50: 41 Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people,
 - 42 and that all should give up their particular customs.
 - 43 All the Gentiles accepted the command of the king.
 - Many even from Israel gladly adopted his religion;
 - they sacrificed to idols and profaned the sabbath.



- 44 And the king sent letters by messengers to Jerusalem and the towns of Judah; he directed them to follow customs strange to the land,
 - 45 to forbid burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings in the sanctuary,
 - to profane sabbaths and festivals,
 - 46 to defile the sanctuary and the priests,
 - 47 to build altars and sacred precincts and shrines for idols,



- to sacrifice swine and other unclean animals,
- 48 and to leave their sons uncircumcised.
- They were to make themselves abominable by everything unclean and profane,
- 49 so that they would forget the law and change all the ordinances.
- 50 He added, “And whoever does not obey the command of the king shall die.”



- 1 Maccabees 2:23-28:

- 23 When he had finished speaking these words, a Jew came forward in the sight of all to offer sacrifice on the altar in Modein, according to the king's command.
- 24 When Mattathias saw it,
 - he burned with zeal and his heart was stirred.
 - He gave vent to righteous anger; he ran and killed him on the altar.



- 25 At the same time he killed the king's officer who was forcing them to sacrifice, and he tore down the altar.
- 26 Thus he burned with zeal for the law, just as Phinehas did against Zimri son of Salu.
- 27 Then Mattathias cried out in the town with a loud voice, saying:
 - “Let every one who is zealous for the law and supports the covenant come out with me!”
- 28 Then he and his sons fled to the hills and left all that they had in the town.



- 1 Maccabees 2:49-60: 49 Now the days drew near for Mattathias to die, and he said to his sons:
 - “Arrogance and scorn have now become strong; it is a time of ruin and furious anger.
 - 50 Now, my children, show zeal for the law, and give your lives for the covenant of our ancestors.
 - 51 “Remember the deeds of the ancestors, which they did in their generations; and you will receive great honor and an everlasting name.



- 52 Was not Abraham found faithful when tested, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness?
- 53 Joseph in the time of his distress kept the commandment, and became lord of Egypt.
- 54 Phinehas our ancestor, because he was deeply zealous, received the covenant of everlasting priesthood.
- 55 Joshua, because he fulfilled the command, became a judge in Israel.
- 56 Caleb, because he testified in the assembly, received an inheritance in the land.



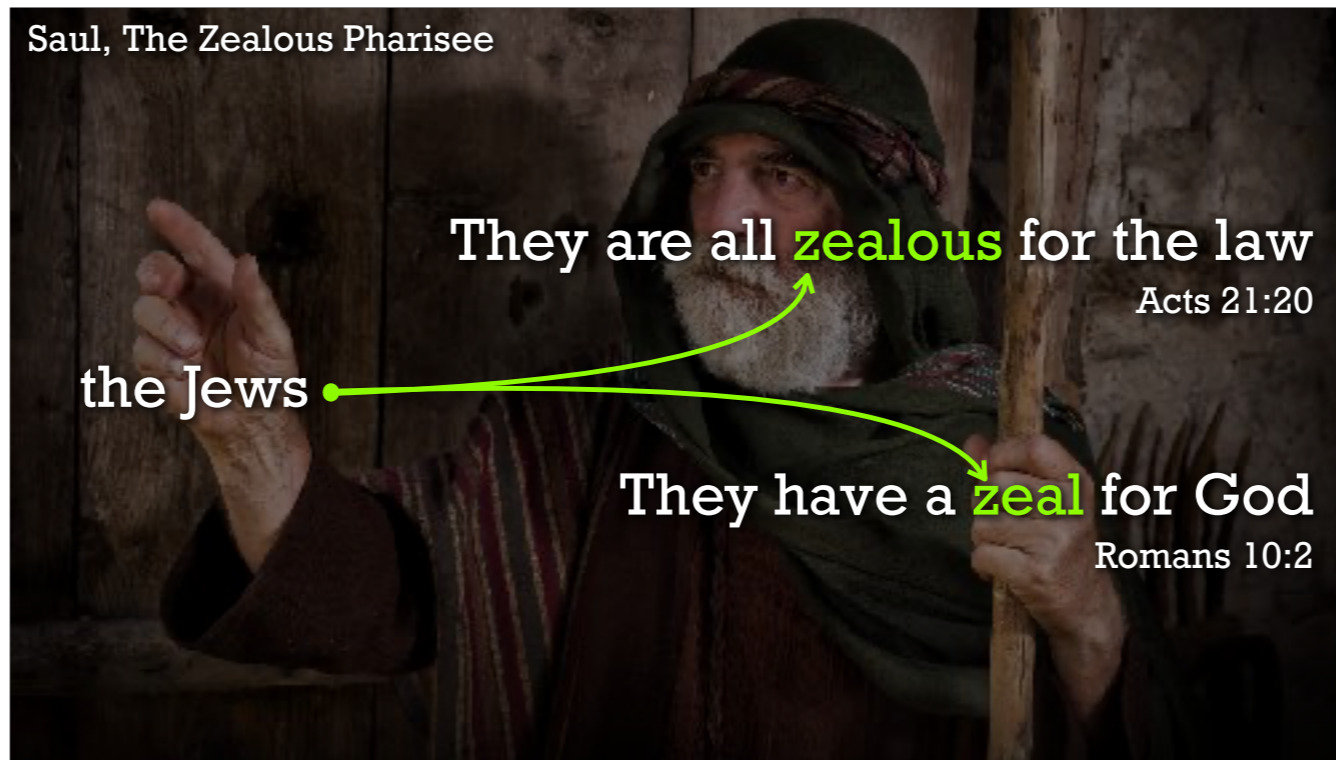
- 57 David, because he was merciful, inherited the throne of the kingdom forever.
- 58 Elijah, because of great zeal for the law, was taken up into heaven.
- 59 Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael believed and were saved from the flame.
- 60 Daniel, because of his innocence, was delivered from the mouth of the lions.



- Holy:
 - Deuteronomy 28:9 (ESV): 9 The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways.
- Righteousness:
 - Matthew 5:20 (ESV) 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- While no explicit reference to Phinehas, like Mattathias, it would be safe to assume they looked to his example of zealousness and righteousness.

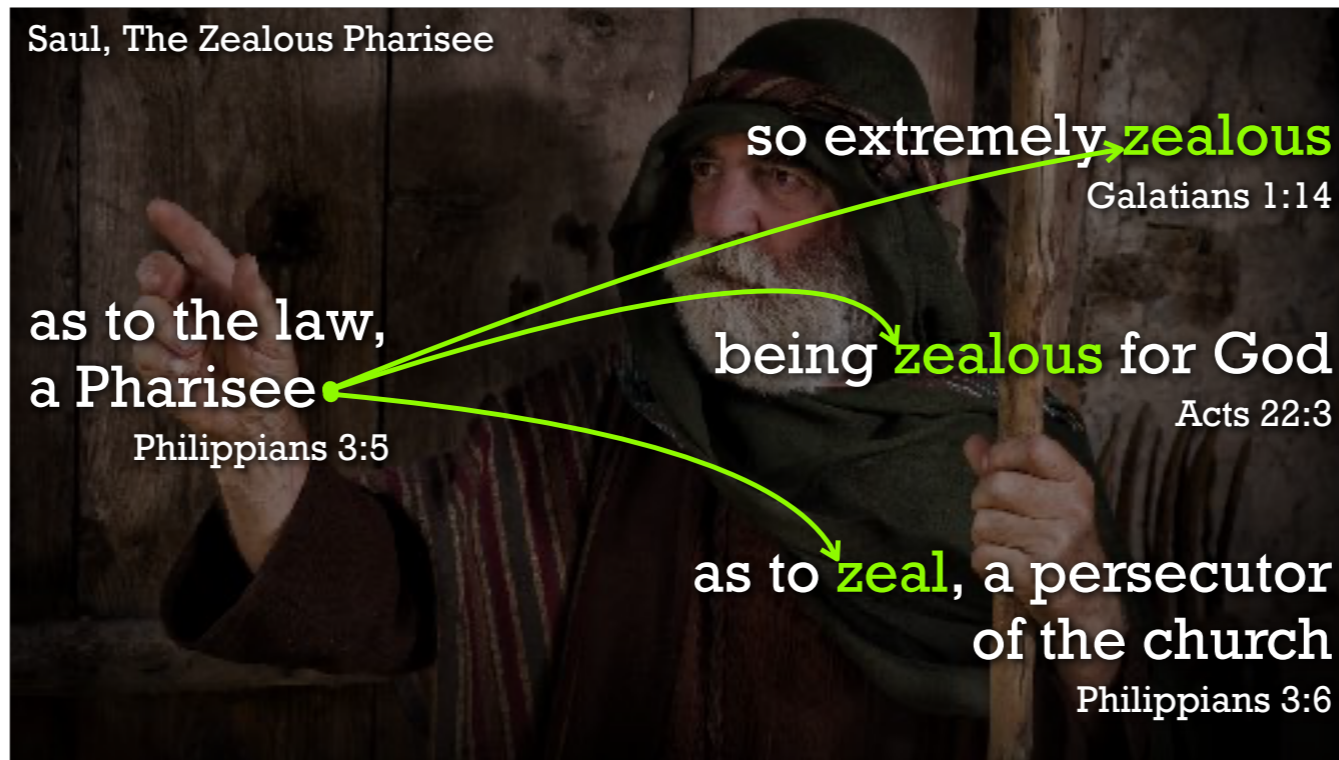


- Saul, The Zealous Pharisee



- Jews

- Romans 10:1-4 (ESV) 1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.**
- Acts 21:20-22 (ESV) 20 **They are all zealous for the law,** (James and Elders in Jerusalem to Paul)



- A Pharisee

- Philippians 3:5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee

- Zealous

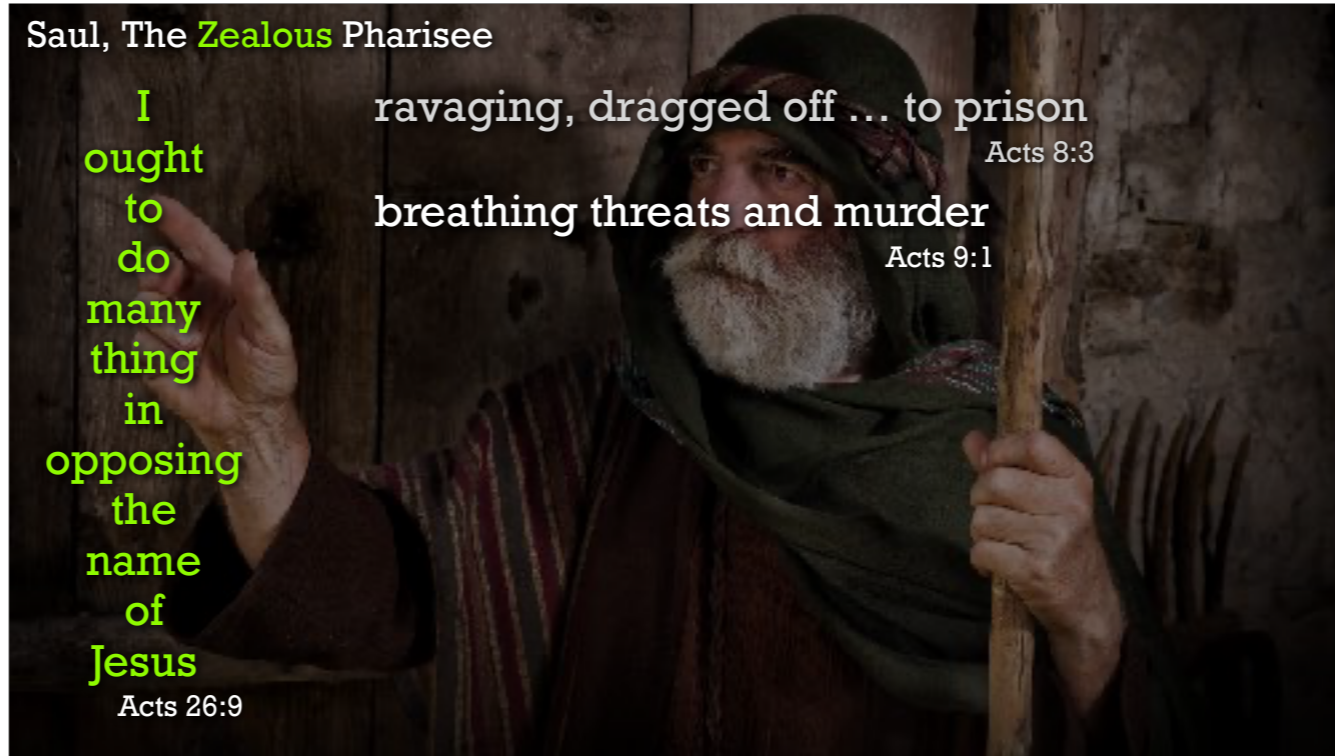
- Philippians 3:6 as to **zeal, a persecutor of the church**; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
- Galatians 1:12-14 (ESV) 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. 13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. 14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, **so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.**
- Acts 22:3 (ESV) 3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, **being zealous for God** as all of you are this day.



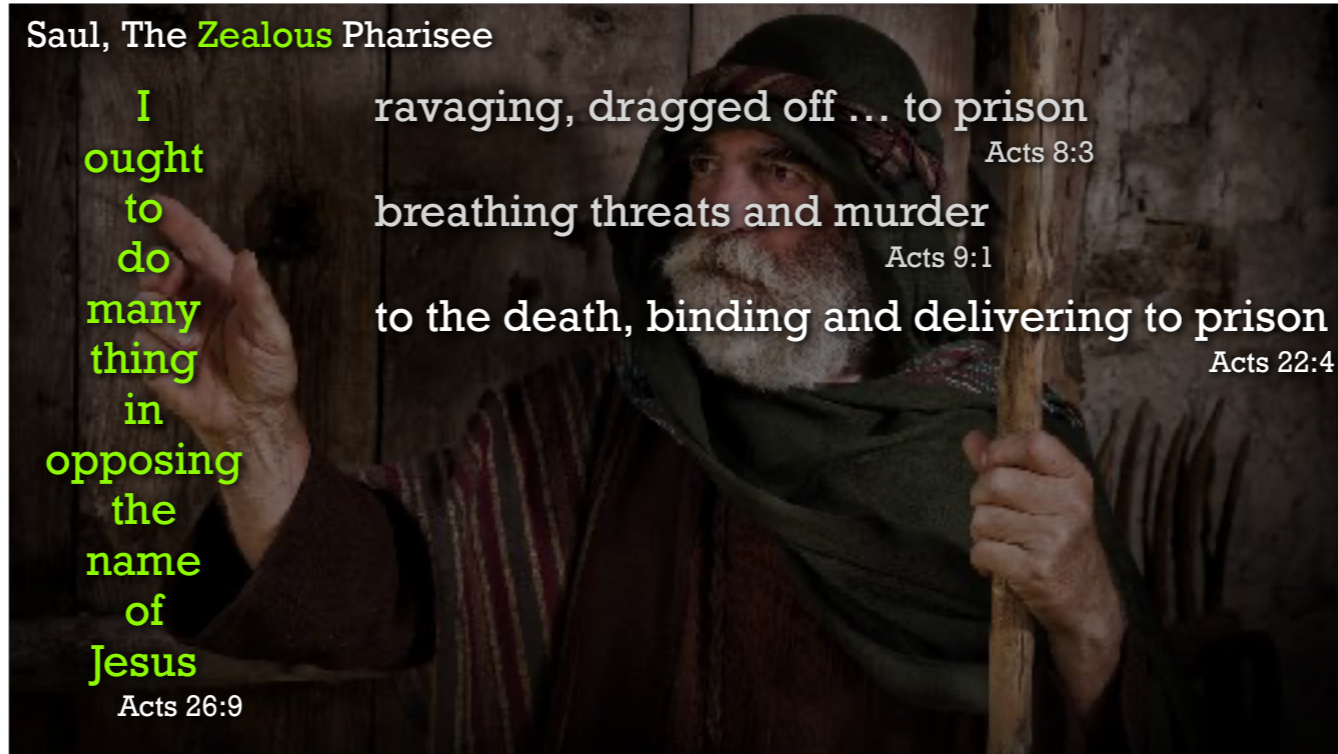
- How did Saul's zeal show itself?
 - Acts 26:9 **"I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.**



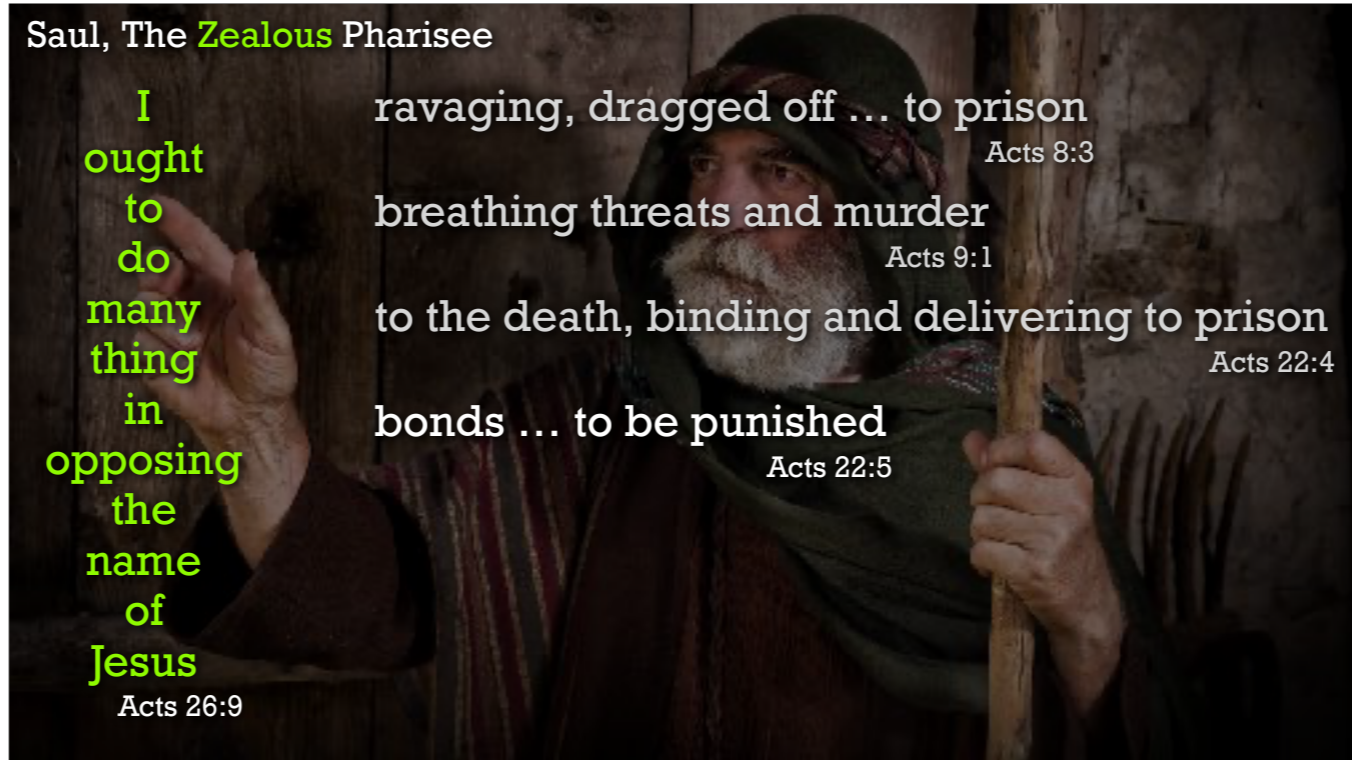
- Acts 8:3: 3 But Saul was **ravaging** the church, and entering house after house, he **dragged off** men and women and committed them to **prison**.



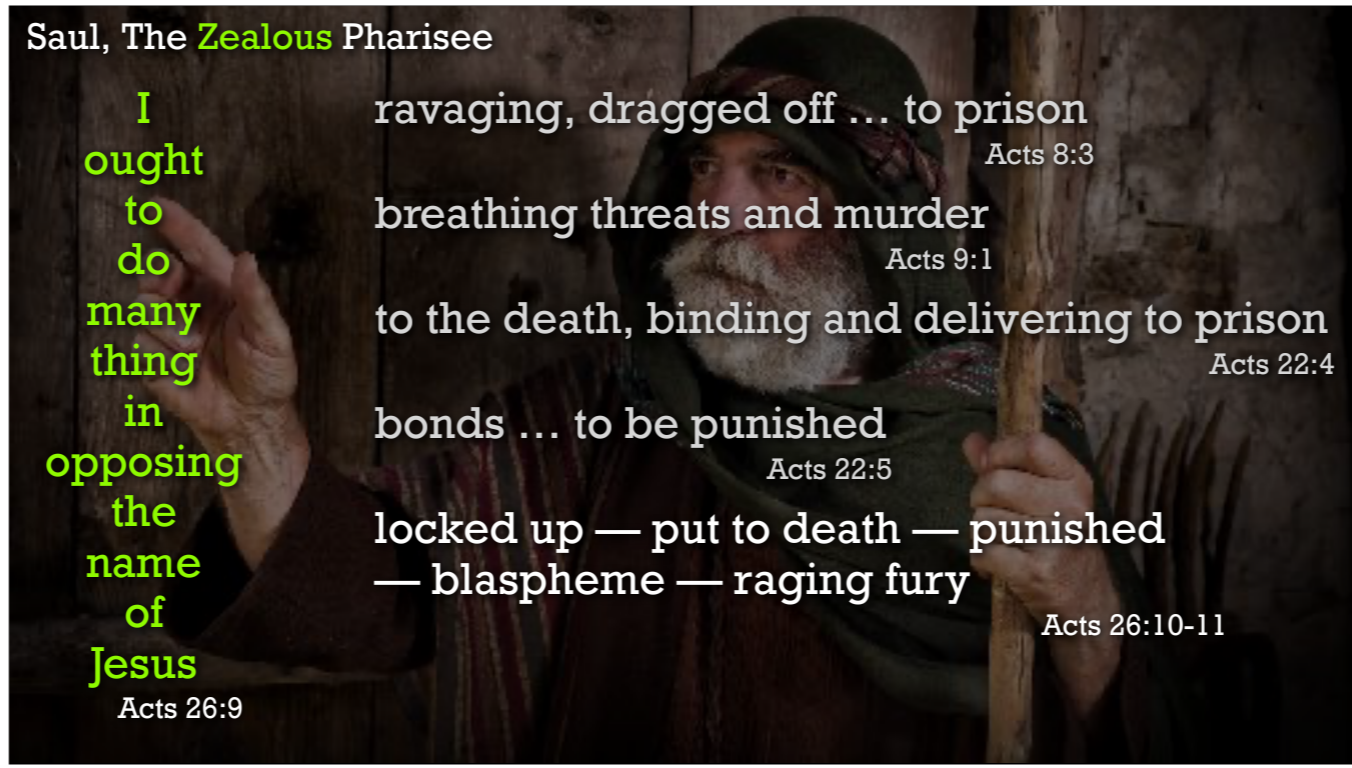
- Acts 9:1-19 (ESV) 1 But Saul, still **breathing threats and murder** against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them **bound** to Jerusalem.



- Acts 22:4-5 (ESV) 4 I persecuted this Way to the **death, binding and delivering to prison** both men and women, 5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in **bonds** to Jerusalem to be **punished**.



- Acts 22:4-5 (ESV) I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in **bonds** to Jerusalem to be **punished**.
-



• Acts 26:9-11 (ESV) 9 “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only **locked up** many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but **when they were put to death I cast my vote against them**. 11 And I **punished** them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them **blaspheme**, and in **raging fury** against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Saul, The Zealous Pharisee

I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus

ravaging, dragged off ... to prison
Acts 8:3

breathing threats and murder
Acts 9:1

to the death, binding and delivering to prison
Acts 22:4

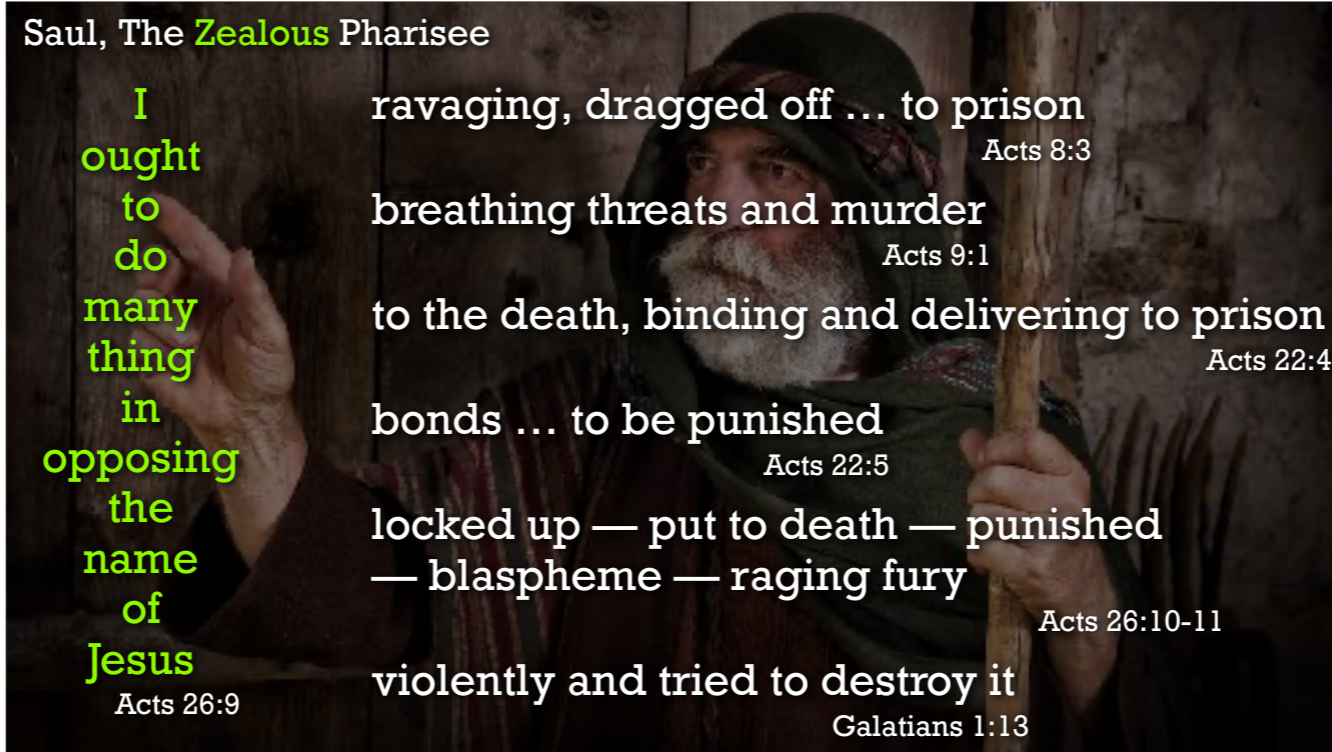
bonds ... to be punished
Acts 22:5

locked up — put to death — punished — blaspheme — raging fury
Acts 26:10-11

violently and tried to destroy it
Galatians 1:13

Acts 26:9

- Galatians 1:13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God **violently** and **tried to destroy it**. 14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.



Saul, The **Zealous** Pharisee

I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus

ravaging, dragged off ... to prison
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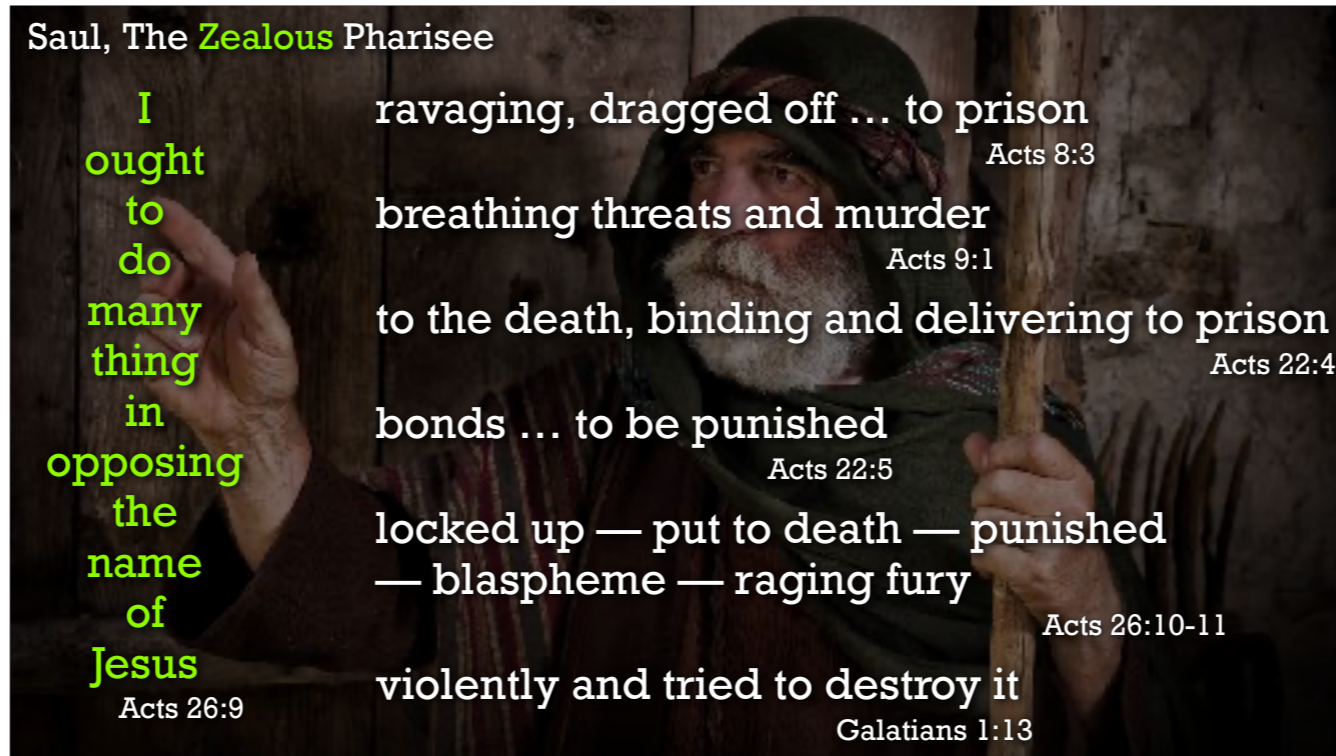
bonds ... to be punished
Acts 22:5

locked up — put to death — punished
— blaspheme — raging fury
Acts 26:10-11

violently and tried to destroy it
Galatians 1:13

Acts 26:9

- How is this different than Phinehas?
 - Phinehas killed a man and a woman: idolatry and sexual immorality.
 - It originated in God's zeal for his people.
 - It obeyed God's authority carefully.
 - It acted when necessary, quickly.
 - It was righteous in God's eyes.



- Saul was killing, violent, and imprisoning Christians
 - “opposing the name of Jesus”
 - idolatry?
- John 16:1-4 (ESV) 1 “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. 2 **They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.** 3 And **they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.** 4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.



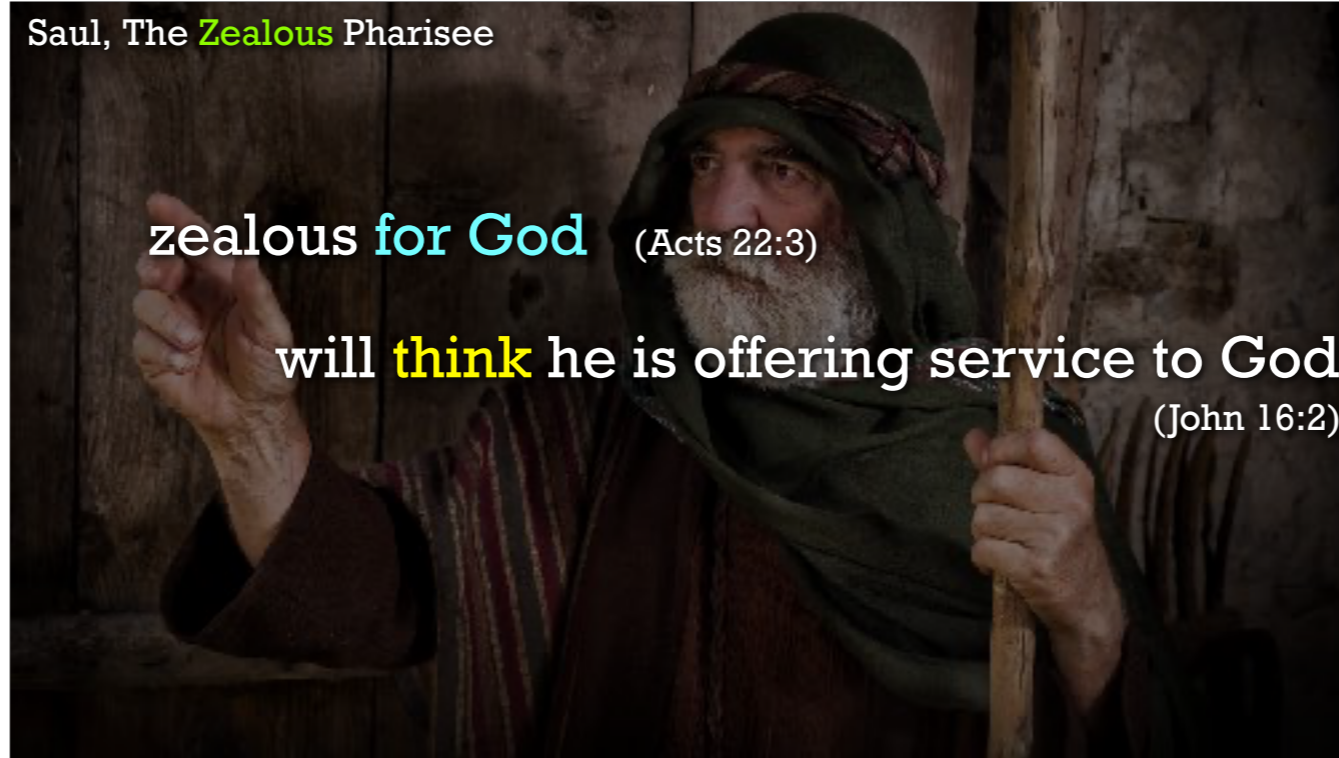
- Zealous for God

- Acts 22:3 (ESV) 3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, **being zealous for God** as all of you are this day.

Saul, The Zealous Pharisee

zealous for God (Acts 22:3)

will think he is offering service to God
(John 16:2)



- John 16:1-4 (ESV) 1 “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you **will think he is offering service to God.** 3 And **they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.** 4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

Saul, The **Zealous** Pharisee

zealous for God (Acts 22:3)

will **think** he is offering service to God
(John 16:2)

they have **not known**
the Father, nor Me
(John 16:3)

- John 16:1-4 (ESV) 1 “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you **will think he is offering service to God**. 3 And **they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me**. 4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

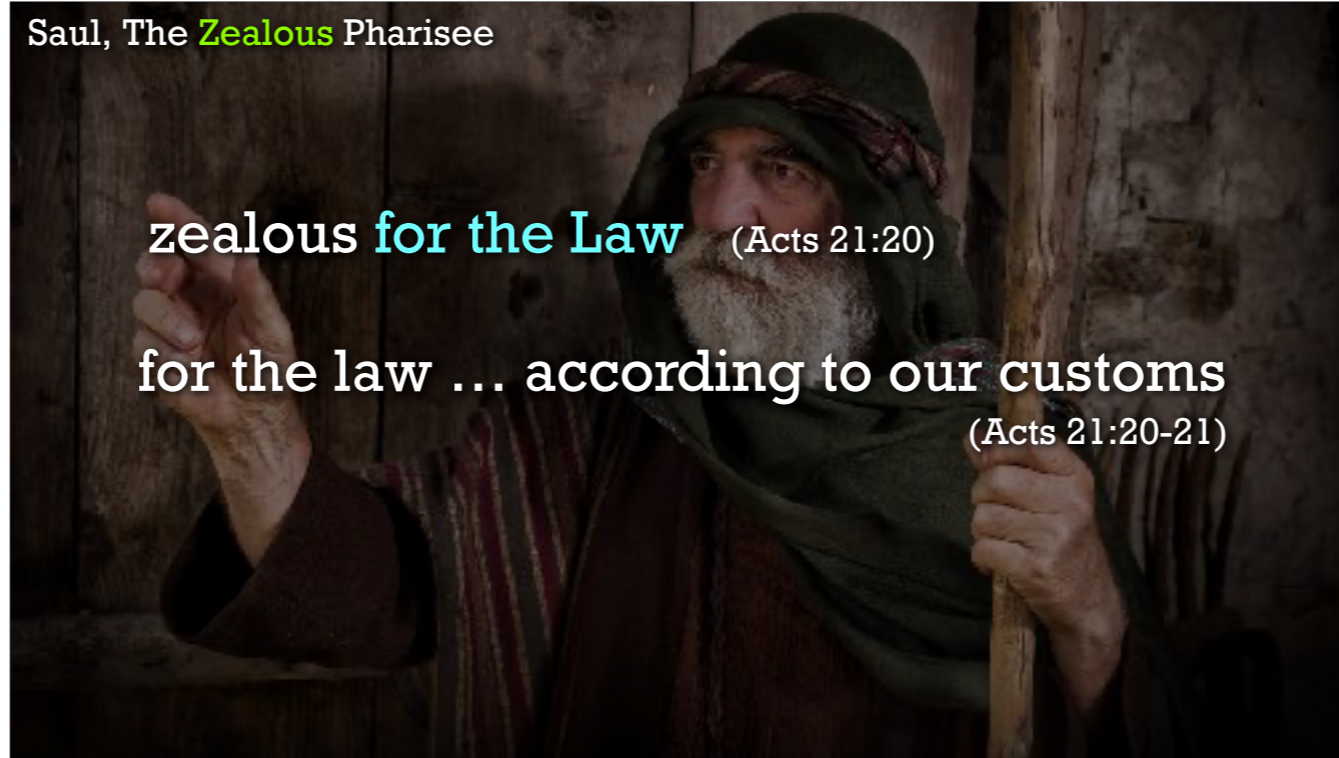


- Zealous for the Law
 - Acts 21:20-22 (ESV) 20 **They are all zealous for the law,** (James and Elders in Jerusalem to Paul)

Saul, The **Zealous** Pharisee

zealous for the Law (Acts 21:20)

for the law ... according to our customs
(Acts 21:20-21)



- Acts 21:21 (ESV) 21 and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.

Saul, The **Zealous** Pharisee

zealous for the Law (Acts 21:20)

for the law ... according to our customs
(Acts 21:20-21)

not according
to knowledge
(Romans 10:2)

- Romans 10:1-4 (ESV) 1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.**

Saul, The **Zealous** Pharisee

zealous for the Law (Acts 21:20)

for the law ... according to our customs

(Acts 21:20-21)

not according
to knowledge

(Romans 10:2)

they did not submit to
God's righteousness

(Romans 10:3)

- Romans 10:3-4 (ESV) 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.



- Zealous for traditions
 - Galatians 1:14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, **so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.**

Saul, The **Zealous** Pharisee

so extremely zealous ...
for the traditions of my fathers (Galatians 1:14)

And why do you break the commandment
of God for the sake of your tradition?
(Matthew 15:3)

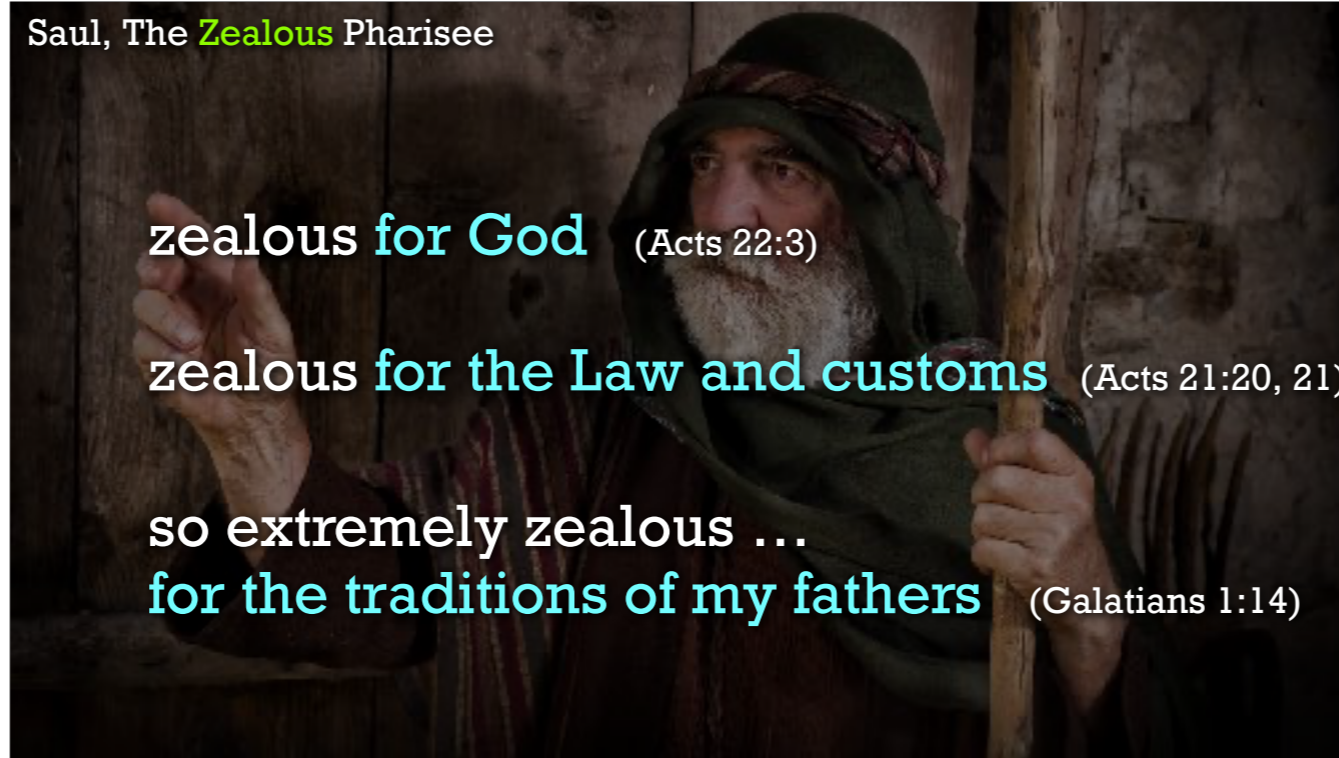
- Matthew 15:2 “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.”
- Matthew 15:3 He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?”

Saul, The **Zealous** Pharisee

zealous for God (Acts 22:3)

zealous for the Law and customs (Acts 21:20, 21)

so extremely zealous ...
for the traditions of my fathers (Galatians 1:14)



- Zealous for God, law, customs, traditions

- Saul was zealous, but couldn't discern the difference between really serving God and serving the traditions he had been taught.
- Saul's zeal was completely different from the zeal of Phinehas: wasn't faithful to God.

Saul, The **Zealous** Pharisee

zealous for God (Acts 22:3)

zealous for the Law and customs (Acts 21:20, 21)

so extremely zealous ...
for the traditions of my fathers (Galatians 1:14)

- Is it possible for me to deceive myself (and others) in the same ways?
 - Of course.
 - While we wouldn't say the "Law"; we often speak of the "Truth"
 - In fact, it's hard not to be so deceived because our traditions are taught as truth.
- True zeal will always obey all of God's laws and seek to help others be faithful to God.
- We must be careful that we don't use zealousness to hide unrighteousness.

Real Zeal

❄ **Knowledge** (Romans 10:2)

❄ **Productive** (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 3:13)

❄ **Active** (Romans 12:8, 11)

- What does a disciple's zeal look like?
 - Knowledge not tradition
 - Romans 10:2 (ESV) 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.
 - Knows Father and Jesus
 - Knows Righteousness of God, refuses to create own
 - It originated in God's zeal for his people.
 - It was righteous in God's eyes.
 - Productive not destructive
 - Titus 2:14 (ESV) 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
 - 1 Peter 3:13 (ESV) 13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?
 - It obeyed God's authority carefully.
 - Active Service to God
 - Romans 12:8 (ESV) 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
 - Romans 12:11 (ESV) 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
 - It acted when necessary, quickly.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Be Zealous Like Phinehas (But Not Like The Pharisees)

Romans 10:1-4

Synopsis: Using Saul as a typical Pharisee, we are given an instructive example of improper zeal. He was zealous for God, but didn't know God; he was zealous for the law, but made his own righteousness, and he was zealous for the traditions of his father thus breaking God's commandments.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”