





• 1 Samuel 13:5-14

King Saul's Sacrifices

💡 The people are scattering from me



- The people are scattering from me



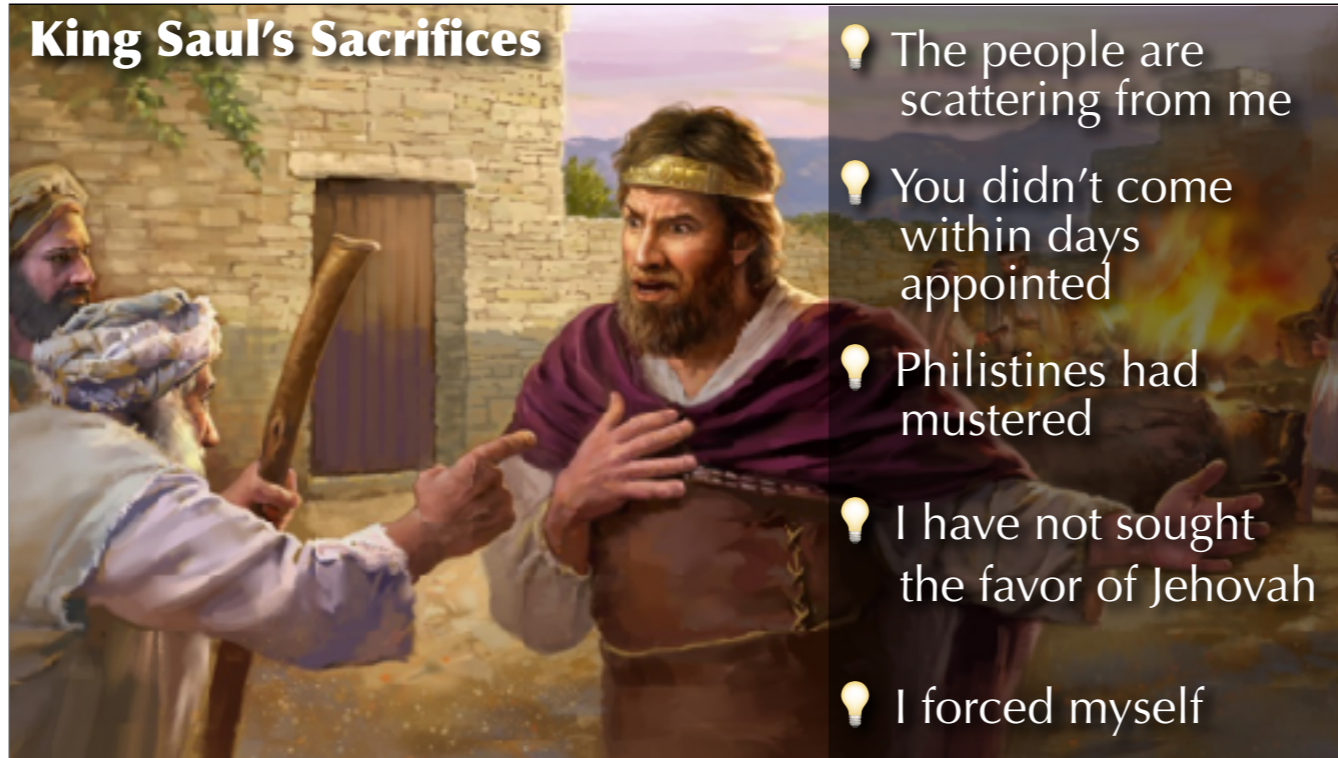
- You didn't come when you were supposed to



- The huge Philistine army is ready to fight

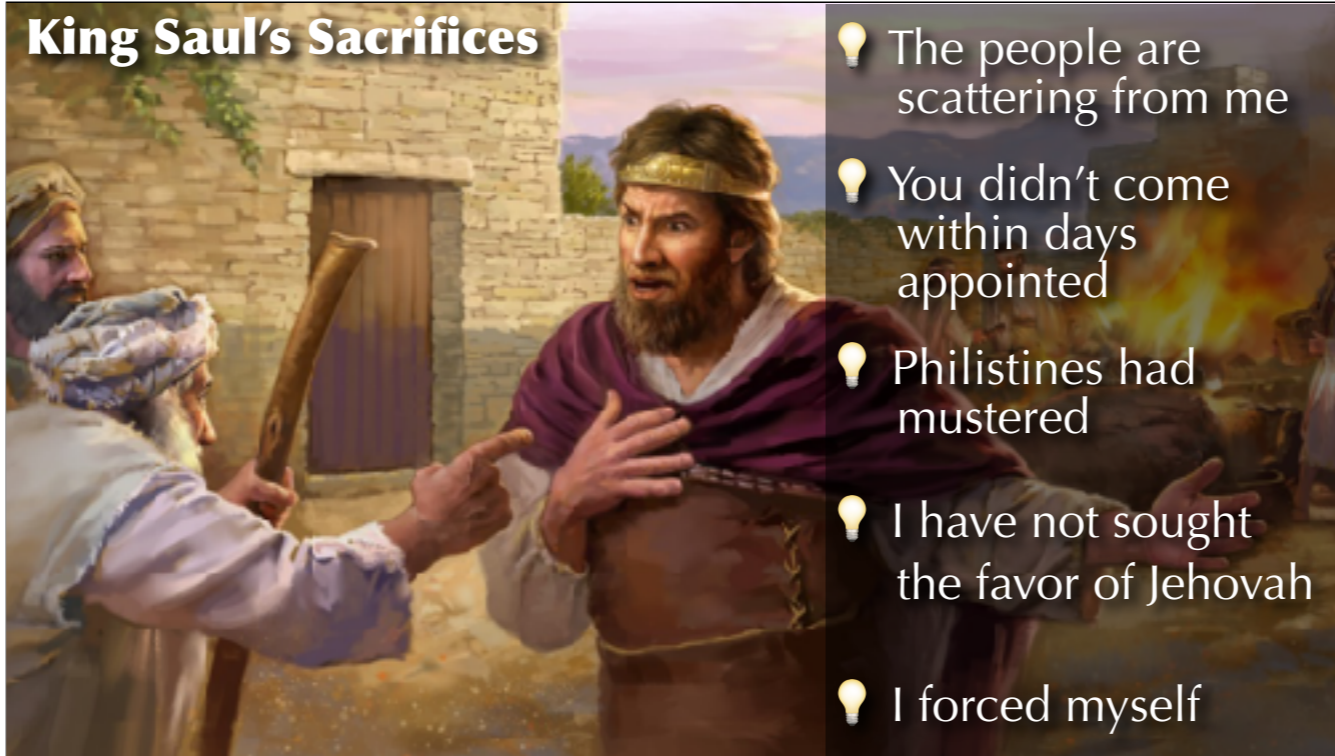


- I have not sought the favor of Jehovah
 - Sounds like it's the right thing to say
 - And it's a good thing
 - But Saul's zeal went beyond what was right.



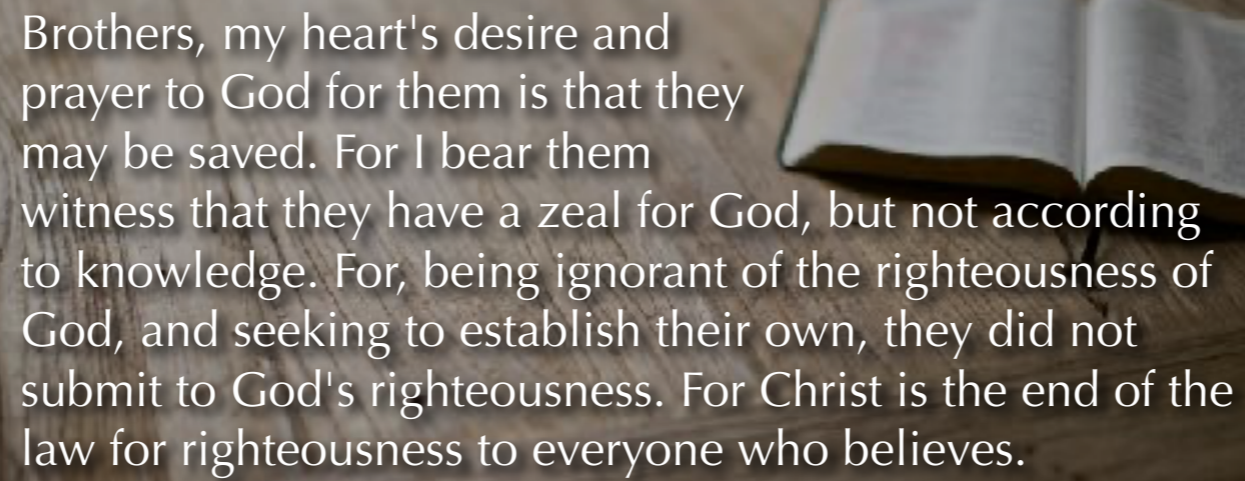
- I forced myself
 - It was necessary or we'd lose the battle: disaster.
- I need God's favor, God's salvation.
 - How can I get His favor?
 - Sacrifices please God
 - I have to do this.
 -

King Saul's Sacrifices



- 💡 The people are scattering from me
- 💡 You didn't come within days appointed
- 💡 Philistines had mustered
- 💡 I have not sought the favor of Jehovah
- 💡 I forced myself

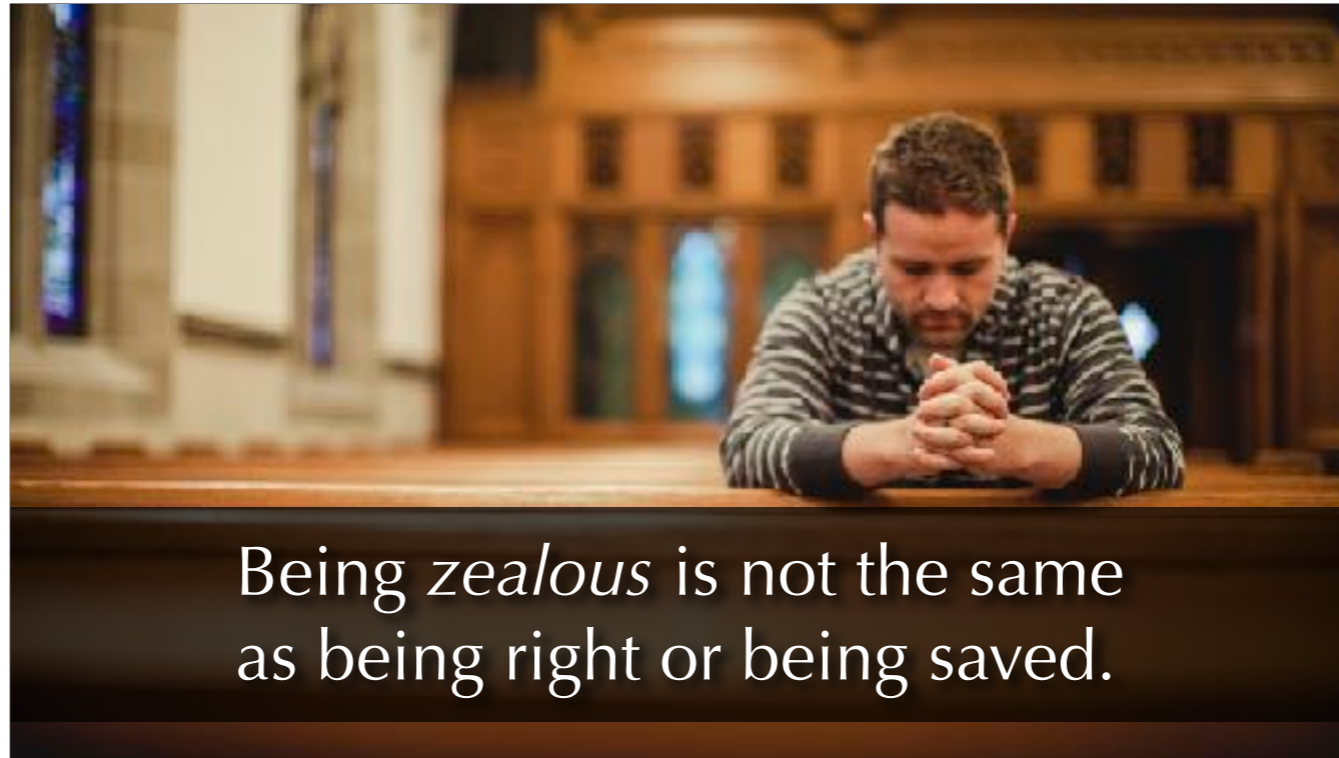
- Is this type of reasoning common among us?

An open book with white pages and a dark cover lies on a rustic wooden surface. The text of the Bible is overlaid on the left side of the image in a white, serif font. The background is a warm, brown-toned photograph of the book and wood.

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

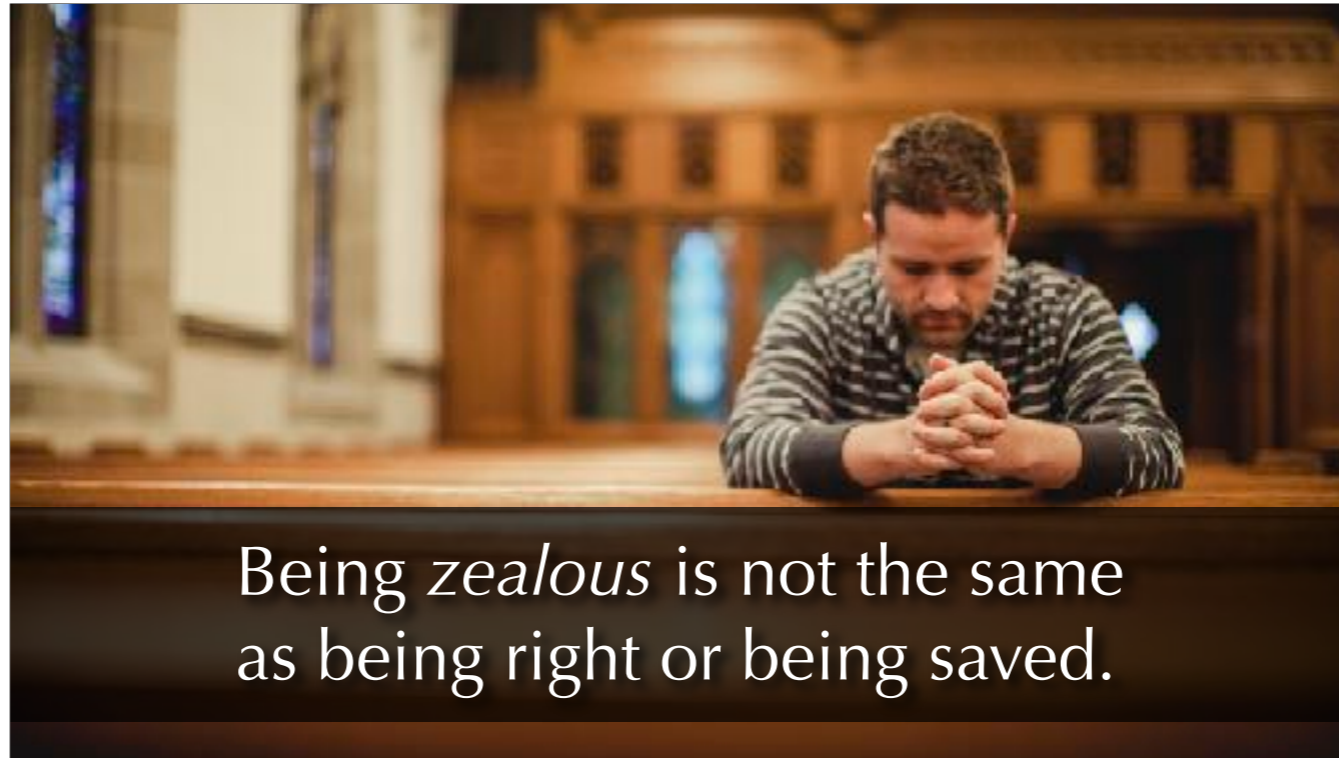
Romans 10:1-4

- 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. 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.
- It's not just the Israelites, though.
- It's each of us who can fall into this trap.



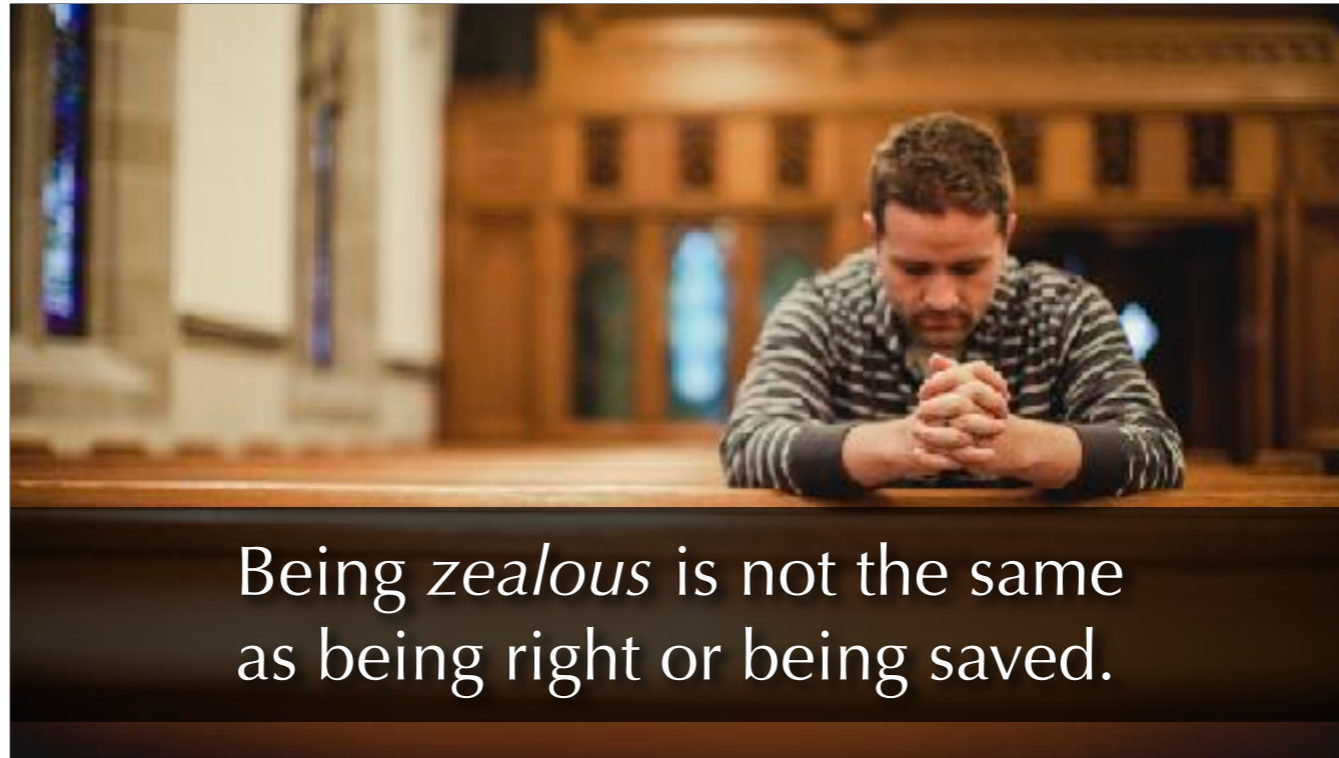
Being *zealous* is not the same
as being right or being saved.

- Being zealous is not the same as being right or being saved.
- 1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.



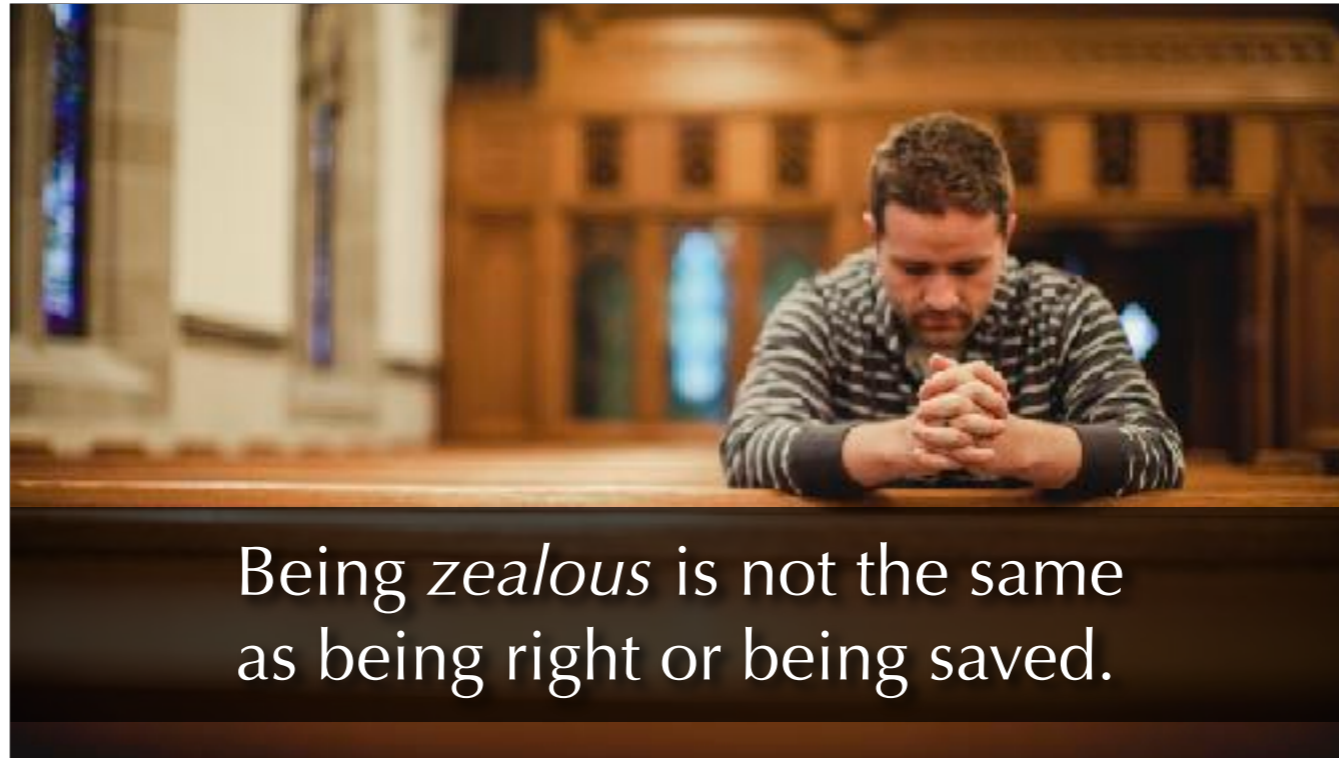
Being *zealous* is not the same
as being right or being saved.

- Paul's consideration of his brethren is moving
 - He wants them to be saved
 - hearts desire
 - prayer to God
 - Consider how important it is that we pray for souls to be saved
 - Many are sincere, devout, striving
 - But we must beware of considering them incorrectly: as enemies to be destroyed



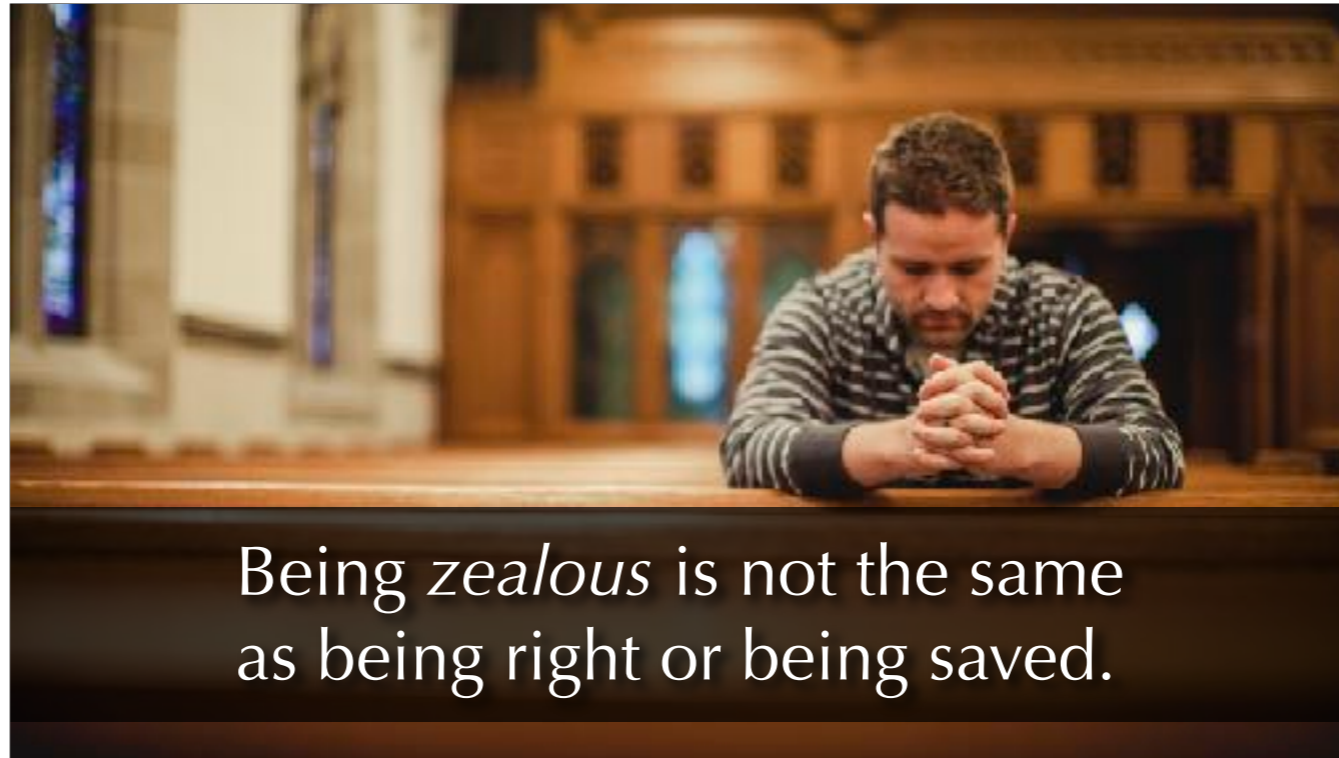
Being *zealous* is not the same
as being right or being saved.

- a zeal for God
 - Zeal for the wrong things (not God)
 - too often we are zealous for the wrong things: politics, country, sport, fashion, etc.
 - sometimes it's selfish, sometimes not



Being *zealous* is not the same
as being right or being saved.

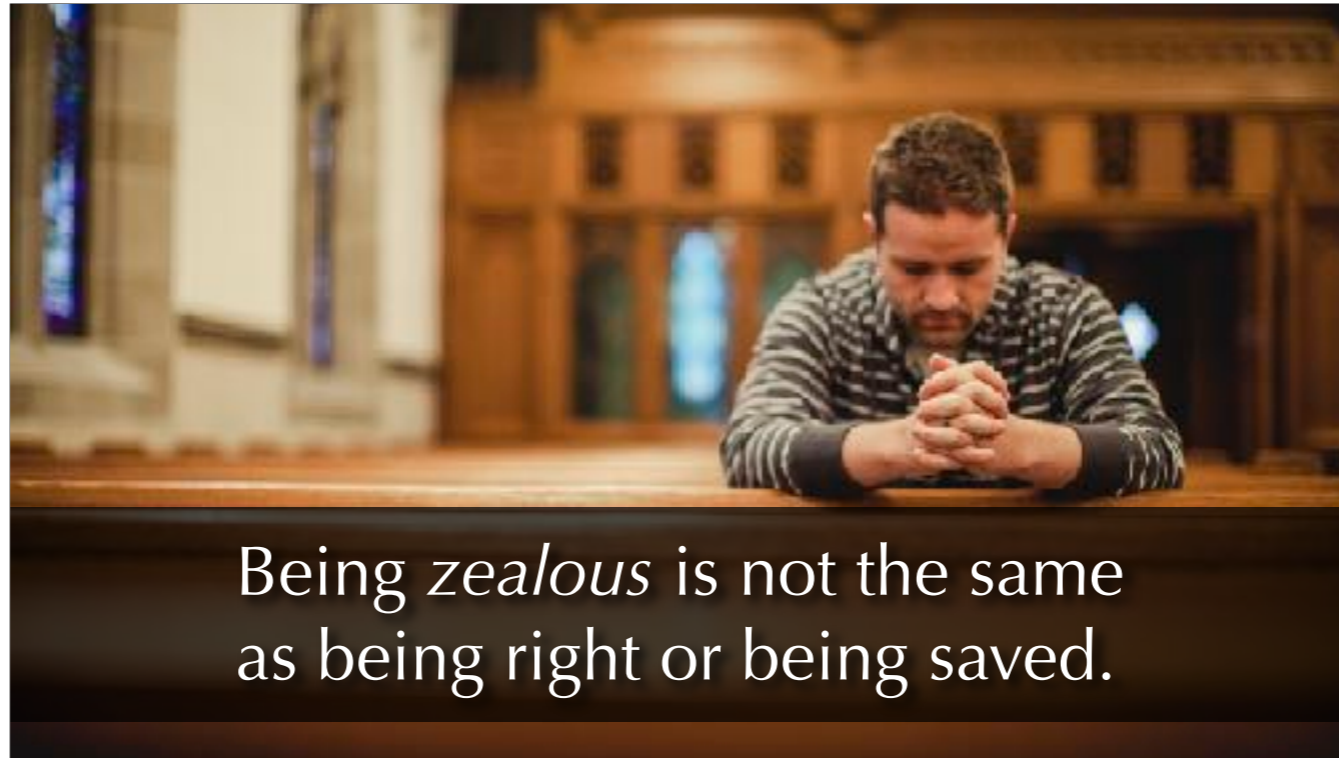
- a zeal for God
- Even Zeal for God can be misdirect
 - Amazing how easily we can deceive ourselves
 - John 16:2 (ESV) They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.



Being *zealous* is not the same
as being right or being saved.

- Saul the Pharisee

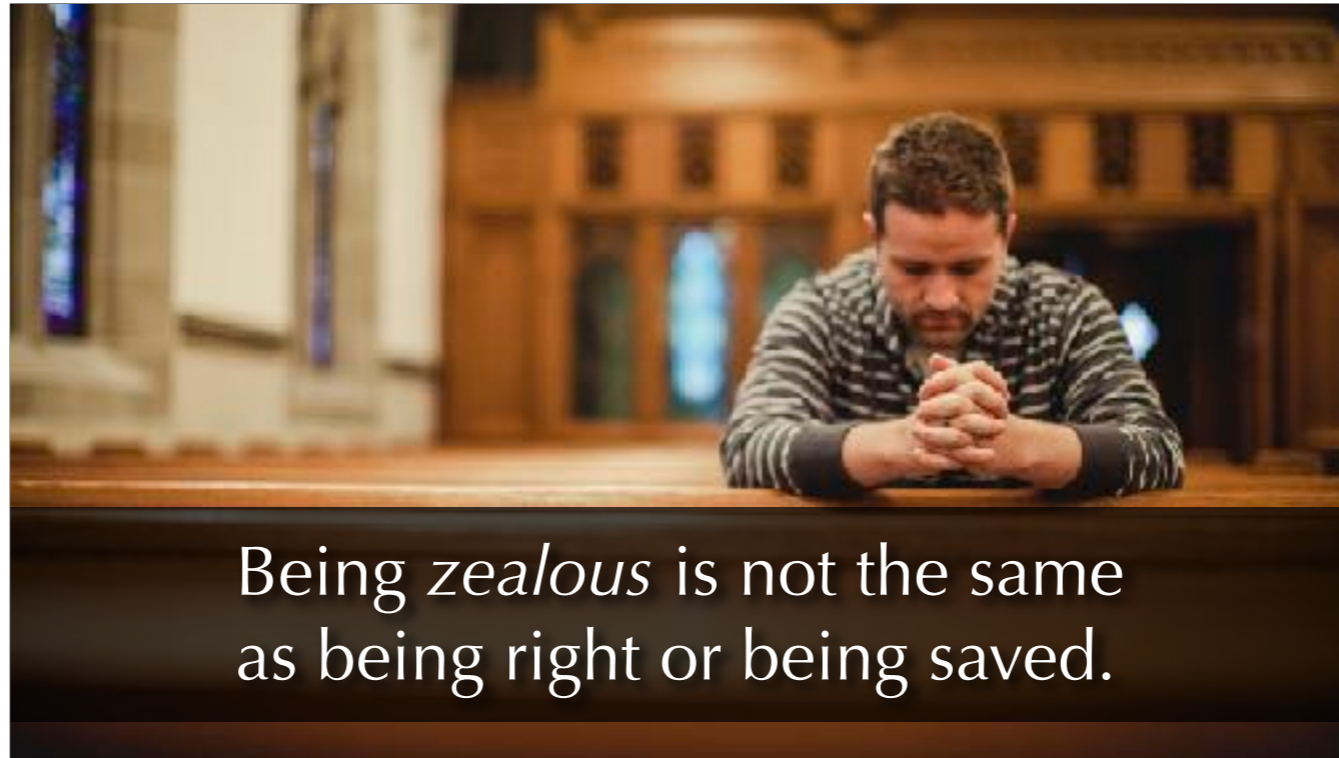
- Acts 26:9-11 (ESV) 9 “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against 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.



Being *zealous* is not the same
as being right or being saved.

- Saul the Pharisee

- Galatians 1:13-14 (ESV) 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.
 - Paul equated knowledge of God and scripture with traditions of the fathers
- Philippians 3:6 (ESV) 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church



Being *zealous* is not the same
as being right or being saved.

- Sometimes we try to substitute busyness for obedience of faith from the heart.
 - Always at assemblies
 - Doing what others have defined as faithfulness



Zeal that Honors God Requires Knowledge

- Being Zealous requires knowledge
- 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.
 - The Right kind of knowledge
- The Israelites thought that they knew God —
 - better than anyone else: promises, law, prophets, writings



Zeal that Honors God Requires Knowledge

- Sadducees

- Mark 12:18-27 (ESV) 18 And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, 19 “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. 20 There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. 21 And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. 22 And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. 23 In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife.”



Zeal that Honors God Requires Knowledge

- 24 Jesus said to them, **“Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?”** 25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 26 And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? 27 He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong.”



Zeal that Honors God Requires Knowledge

- Pharisees
 - Matthew 23:3 (ESV) 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.
 - Matthew 23:5 (ESV) 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long,
 - Matthew 23:15 (ESV) 15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.



- Pharisees
 - Matthew 23:23 (ESV) 23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.
 - Matthew 23:29 (ESV) 29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous,



Zeal that Honors God Requires Knowledge

- Righteousness of God ... revealed
 - Romans 3:21-26 (ESV)
 - 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested
 - apart from the law,
 - although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—
 - 22 the righteousness of God
 - through faith in Jesus Christ for **all** who believe.
 - For there is no distinction: 23 for **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,



Zeal that Honors God Requires Knowledge

- Righteousness of God ... revealed
 - 24 and are **justified** by his grace as a gift,
 - through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus,
 - 25 whom God put forward as a **propitiation** by his blood,
 - to be received by **faith**.
 - This was to show God's righteousness,
 - because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.
 - 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time,
 - so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



Zeal that Honors God Requires Knowledge

- Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
 - Anger, Lust, Deceit, Vengeance, Hatred, Worship, Life choices
- Like Saul, must beware of knowledge that is filtered through the traditions of our fathers.
 - Don't really know scriptures
 - Don't really know power of God
 - Don't really know truth, Our Father, Christ



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- Zeal that honors God: Being Zealous requires humility
- 3: seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- Establishing their own (righteousness)
 - they wouldn't see it that way, of course
 - Jeroboam did this: setting up two idols, two new places to worship, new priests, new temples, new feasts
 - "he had devised from his own heart" (1 Kings 12:33)
 - My conjectures are more valid than what is revealed.



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- How can I be pleasing to God?
 - Doing more good than bad; don't be radically evil
 - God understands that we are human
 - Love!
 - God is love
 - Just doing what is commanded, being over-strict (heart not necessary)
 - God wants us to obey
- Paul's Warning: Colossians 2:18-23 (ESV)



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- Paul's Warning: Colossians 2:18-23 (ESV)
 - 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,
19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- 20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— 21 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- Do not submit to God's righteousness
 - Some are often arrogant, thinking that they know more, understand better, and live more righteously than others
-



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- Exalting Our Own Reasoning
 - Matthew 15:1-9
 - Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said,
 - 2 “Why do your disciples **break the tradition of the elders?**
 - *These traditions were very old ... accepted as well established truth*
 - For they do not wash their hands when they eat.”



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- 3 He answered them,
 - “And why do you **break the commandment of God** for the sake of your tradition?”
- 4 For God commanded,
 - ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and,
 - ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- 5 But you say,
 - ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” 6 he need not honor his father.’
 - They would say such a one is Honoring God ... and that’s more important than honoring parents.
- So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.
- 7 You hypocrites!



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:
 - 8 “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;
 - 9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- What does it mean to humble myself so that I can be zealous
 - Psalms 119:137-144 (ESV)
 - 137 Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your rules.
 - Who God is
 - 138 You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.
 - How God Works for us



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- 139 My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words.
 - My purpose in being faithful
- 140 Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.
 - God's wisdom is recognized and appreciated: followed
- 141 I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts.
 - Others may think greatly of themselves, but I just keep on obeying God.



Zeal that Honors God Requires *Humility*

- 142 Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.
 - Recognition of the superiority of God's righteousness and truth.
 - Man can't match it.
- 143 Trouble and anguish have found me out, but your commandments are my delight.
 - Life is sometimes hard, but that's no reason to stop obeying.
 - King Saul
- 144 Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.
 - Desire and Prayer to understand God's laws.



Zeal that Honors God Requires Faith

- Zeal that Honors God Requires Faith
- 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
 - Who do I trust?
 - Myself?
 - King Saul: I forced myself
 - Saul:
 - I thought
 - I was convinced
 - The traditions of my fathers?



Zeal that Honors God Requires Faith

- God?
 - Paul:
 - 1 Corinthians 2:2-5 (ESV) 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.



- Be Zealous for God: know his will; humble yourself to do his will; trust that this is right and best.

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Zeal that Honors God

Romans 10:1-4

Synopsis: Zeal can easily be misdirected as seen in King Saul, the Sadducees, the Pharisees, and Saul. Paul reminds us that zeal which honors God requires knowledge, humility, and faith.

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