

ZEAL ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE

Romans 10:1-2

Paul desired and prayed for the salvation of his countrymen, implying necessarily that they were as yet lost when they were zealous, but lacking in knowledge.

I. "THEY HAVE A ZEAL FOR GOD"

A. John 2:13-17

As demonstrated by Jesus, zeal is good and necessary when properly directed.

B. 2nd Corinthians 7:9-11

True repentance brings out genuine zeal.

C. Acts 22:3-5; Galatians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:6-7

Zeal incorrectly channeled is a wickedly dangerous thing that must be forsaken.

D. Matthew 27:22-24

It was the zeal of a bloodthirsty mob that prompted Pontius Pilate to sentence Jesus of Nazareth to die on the cross.

E. Acts 19:23-34

The zeal of the Ephesian cult of Diana was zealous as they mindlessly chanted to their goddess while hating on Paul and his friends.

II. "NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE"

A. Acts 17:22-31

The Athenians, too, were very zealous, being "*in all things very religious*", but they did not know God! God must be sought! He must be groped for! Otherwise is ignorance and He will no longer overlook that.

B. Hosea 4:6

Ignorance kills, spiritually.

C. Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom and counsel and knowledge protect against destruction.

D. Romans 1:28-32

Without God in one's knowledge, there is no end to the sin that will run rampant.

E. 1st Timothy 2:3-4

Salvation requires knowledge.

F. 2nd Peter 3:16-17

Knowledge must continue growing or we may fall away.

G. 2nd Peter 1:2-11

Grace and peace are imparted via knowledge (2) and so are all things pertaining to life and godliness (3). Knowledge (5-6) is needed for an abundant entrance into the kingdom (11) and is how we ensure our own election (10).

H. 2nd Timothy 3:7

Beware of the "I'm still studying that" crowd.