

God's Very Name is **Jealous!**

Deuteronomy 5:1-11

In the heart of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20 or Deuteronomy 5) shines forth an attribute of God against the backdrop of man's idolatrous tendencies: "Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them [graven images, idols], nor serve them: **for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God**" (Deut. 5:9). Jealousy in man is often tainted by sin. Indeed Proverbs 6:34 says that "Jealousy is the rage of a man."

God's jealousy, however, is always holy and righteous and pure. Jealousy is that attribute that demands exclusive devotion. God demands that we love Him supremely (Matt. 10:37). "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, **whose Name is Jealous, is a jealous God**" (Exodus 34:14). No other god is to be worshiped because the LORD deserves our sole honor. His very Name and Nature is Jealous—it is at the very essence of Who He is! God's burning passion is that He be given His rightful place in my heart and that nothing should be allowed to remove Him from the throne of my heart.

The word "jealous," both in Hebrew and in Greek, has a twin brother, a synonymous word that even rhymes. It is the word "zealous." God is jealous and zealous for the honor of His Name. When we think of jealousy we need to think of zeal. God has a burning and red-hot zeal that He alone should be worshiped, that He alone should be loved supremely and that He alone should be honored above all.

May God give every believer a burning zeal to give God His rightful place in our hearts and in our lives. May we be on guard against any intruder who would seek to take God's place. May we smash every potential idol and defeat any possible rivals who would seek to rob God of our utmost devotion.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

The Jealousy of God Demands that We be **Zealous** for Him!

Titus 2:11-15

God in His holy jealousy demands our exclusive devotion and love. Our response to God's **jealousy** over us needs to be our fervent **zeal** for Him. We are to have a red-hot and burning zeal to honor the Lord and to be found well-pleasing in His sight. There is no place for lukewarmness among the devoted people of God.

J. C. Ryle, the English preacher, explained the meaning of true zeal for Christ: "Zeal in religion is a burning desire to please God, to do His will, and to advance His glory in the world in every possible way. A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, fervent in spirit. He sees only one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed up in one thing; and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives, or whether he dies—whether he has health, or whether he has sickness—whether he is rich, or whether he is poor—whether he pleases man, or whether he gives offense—whether he is thought wise, or whether he is thought foolish—whether he gets blame, or whether he gets praise—whether he gets honor, or whether he gets shame—for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all. He burns for one thing; and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God's glory. If he is consumed in the very burning, he cares not for it—he is content. He feels that, like a lamp, he is made to burn; and if he is consumed in burning, he has but done the work for which God appointed him."

May we be people *of one thing*: "This one thing I do" (see Phil. 3:14, Psalm 27:4 and Luke 10:42).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org