

Christian Light Publications

CHRISTIAN ZEAL

J.C. Ryle, 1878 (an excerpt)

“It is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing” (Galatians 4:18).

Zeal is a subject, like many others in religion, most sadly misunderstood. Many would be ashamed to be thought as “zealous” Christians. Many are ready to say of zealous people what Festus said of Paul: “They are beside themselves—they are mad!” (See Acts 26:24).

But zeal is a subject that no reader of the Bible has any right to pass over. If we make the Bible our rule of faith and practice, we cannot turn away from it. We must look it in the face. What says the Apostle Paul to Titus? “[Christ] gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14). What says the Lord Jesus to the Laodicean Church? “Be zealous therefore, and repent” (Rev. 3:19).

My object in this paper is to plead the cause of zeal in religion. I believe we ought not to be afraid of it—but rather to love and admire it. I want to strike a blow at the lazy, easy, sleepy Christianity of these latter days, which can see no beauty in zeal and only uses the word “zealot” as a word of reproach. I want to remind Christians that “Zealot” was a name given to one of our Lord Jesus Christ’s apostles and to persuade them to be zealous men.

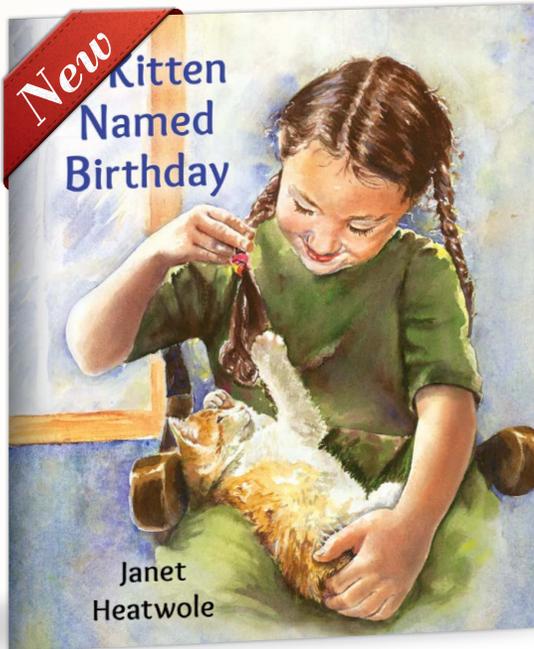
Zeal in religion is a burning desire to please God, to do His will, and to advance His glory in the world in every possible way. It is a desire that no man feels by nature—which the Spirit puts in the heart of every believer when he is converted. This desire is so strong, when it really reigns in a man, that it impels him to make any sacrifice, to go through any trouble, to deny himself to any amount, to suffer, to work, to labor, to toil, to spend himself and be spent, and even to die, if only he can please God and honor Christ.

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 offence; 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 is content. He feels that, like a lamp, he is made to burn, and if consumed in burning—he has but done the work for which God appointed him. Such a one will always find a sphere for his zeal. If he cannot preach and work and give money, he will cry and sigh and pray. Yes, if he is only a pauper on a perpetual bed of sickness—he will make the wheels of sin around him drive heavily by continually interceding against it. If he cannot fight in the valley with Joshua—then he will do the prayer-work of Moses, Aaron, and Hur, on the hill. (See Exod. 17:9-13.) This is what I mean when I speak of “zeal” in religion.

Let every one who professes to be a Christian beware of checking zeal. Seek it. Cultivate it. Try to blow up the fire in your own heart and the hearts of others—but never, never check it. Beware of throwing cold water on zealous souls whenever you meet with them. Beware of nipping in the bud this precious grace when first it shoots. If you are a parent, beware of checking it in your children. If you are a husband, beware of checking it in your wife. If you are a brother, beware of checking it in your sisters, and if you are a minister, beware of checking it in the members of your congregation. It is a shoot of Heaven’s own planting. Beware of crushing it.

Zeal may make mistakes. Zeal may need directing. Zeal may need guiding, controlling, and advising. But zeal does not need damping in a wretched, cold, corrupt, miserable world like this!



A Kitten Named Birthday

Janet Heatwole

Six-year-old Sarah loves to play with her birthday present, a kitten she named Birthday. Because Sarah is deaf, she cannot hear it when Birthday purrs, but she can feel it rumbling like a tiny motor inside his throat. Sarah's mother uses sign language to answer Sarah's many questions about her pet. As Sarah signs with her hands, another question is growing bigger and bigger in her mind. Will her mother know the answer?

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Loyalty Test Romaine Stauffer

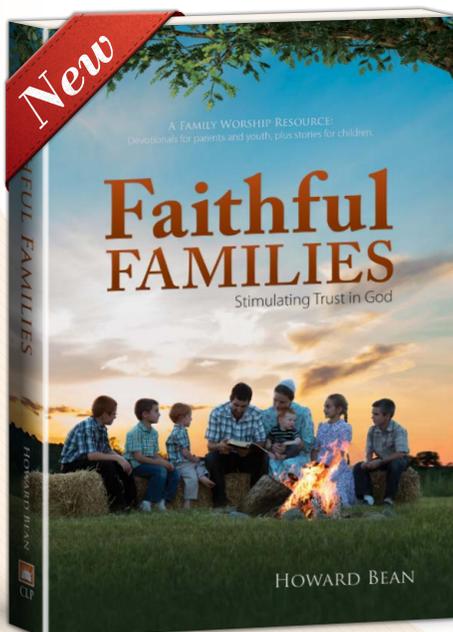
As a farmer, father, and church leader, Christian watched uneasily as anti-British attitudes bubbled up in the American colonies. As rebellion progressed to outright war, Christian stood by as the new colonial army confiscated his wheat and cattle. Then the newly formed government passed a law requiring them to swear loyalty to the state. What would be the consequences of refusing to obey? Double taxes? Heavy fines? Jail time? Based on historical characters, *Loyalty Test* describes the trials of a peaceful people in distressing times. A sequel to *Hidden Riches*.

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Hidden Riches Romaine Stauffer

263140 \$7.95 143 pages, 5¼ x 8¼, CLP



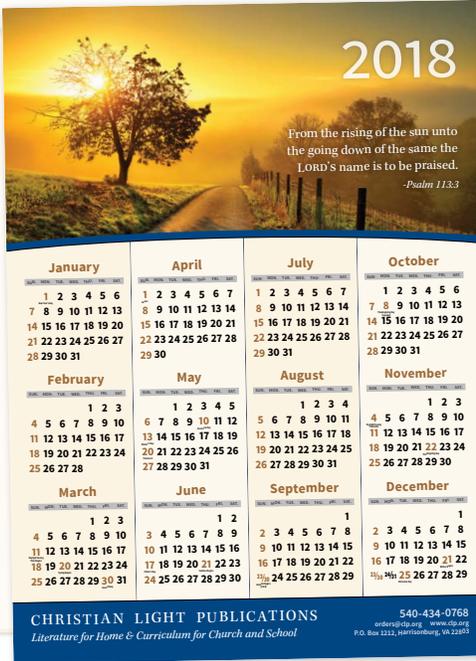
Faithful Families Howard Bean

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Each day's lesson consists of two parts. The first part is especially for Dad and Mom and older children. It includes a suggested Scripture reading, a theme verse, and a devotional meditation. The second part consists of a reading from a continued children's story related to that week's theme followed by questions for review and discussion.

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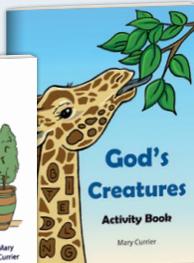


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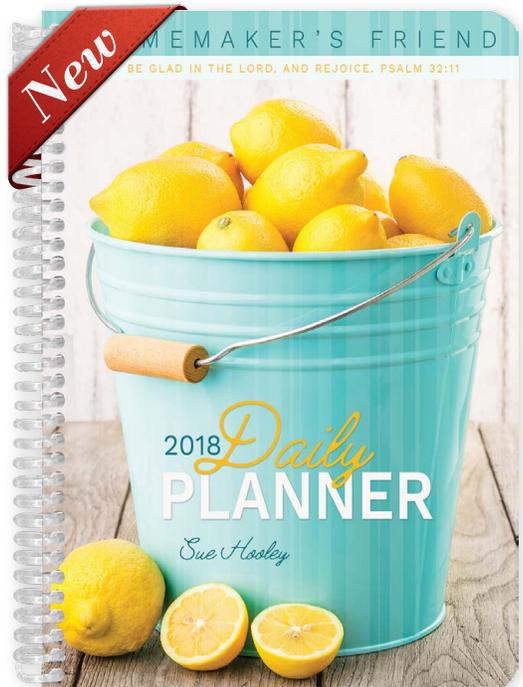
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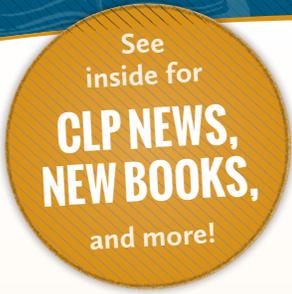
- monthly spreads for long-range planning
- weekly spreads for sketching out an entire week day by day
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Financial Report

June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017

Sales of Publications	8,218,659
Completed Inventory on hand for sale	4,174,043
Accounts Receivable due from customers	225,659
Accounts Payable due to vendors	98,448
Checking account balance	166,906
Cost of <i>Just for You</i> free distribution	81,914
Production and Office Equipment in use	1,517,410
Depreciated value due to use	(996,536)
Present value of our equipment	520,874



SHIPPING RATES

USA	Up to \$44.50	\$4.00
	\$44.51-\$200.00	9%
	\$200.01-\$500.00	8%
	Over \$500.00	6%
RUSH	(Minimum \$4.00)	22%
CANADIAN	Up to \$30.80	\$4.00
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	\$200.01-\$500.00	12%
	Over \$500.00	10%
INTERNATIONAL		20%



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Simon Schrock

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