



**Big Idea: Christmas is the result of God's zeal for His glory.**

~ The main emphasis of our mission here at First Baptist Carmi is to give \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

- ~ We praise our God rightly because He alone is infinitely worthy.
- ~ This is not just our goal; it is the zealous goal of God Himself as well.

~ God is \_\_\_\_\_ to bring glory to His name.

- ~ Everything God does flows from His desire to be glorified (Isa. 48:11; Jer. 13:11; Eph. 1:5-6, 11-12).
- ~ From Genesis to Revelation and from Creation to Consummation, God's goal has been the praise of His glory.

~ At first glance, the idea that God seeks His own glory can seem unseemly for at least two reasons.

- a.) We generally do not like people who behave that way (Mat. 23:12).
  - ~ To many, the idea that God is zealous for His own glory seems to put Him in the category of a "second-hander."
- b.) The Bible seems to teach that people shouldn't seek their own glory (1 Corinthians 13:5).
  - ~ Thus, it would seem to be unloving for God to be self-seeking.

~ God's zeal for His glory is infinitely good because only God is infinitely \_\_\_\_\_.

- ~ If God did not seek His own glory, then He would cease to be God.

- Because God is the greatest being that could possibly exist, His glory is the greatest glory that could possibly be pursued.
- If God were zealous for any glory other than His own, then God would have ungodly goals.

**- God's zeal for His glory is perfectly loving because only God is perfectly \_\_\_\_\_.**

- If God would be for us, He must be for Himself first.
- God demonstrates His perfect love by offering us the most perfect expression of love—Himself!
- In light of God's infinitely excellent beauty, grace, power, holiness, and wisdom, what could we possibly want more?

**- God sent His Son into the world to display the glory of His \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1 John 4:9-10, John 3:16, 1 Peter 3:18

**- In bringing us to \_\_\_\_\_, God is welcoming us into what we most need and most desire (Psalm 16:11, Psalm 73:25-26).**

- God's zeal for His glory makes Him zealous to give us what is best—an intimate and comprehensive vision of Himself and His love for us.

**- God's zeal for His glory \_\_\_\_\_ our redemption in Christ.**

- v. 7 - *"The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."*
- By the zeal of the Lord, the Messiah has come, born to a virgin, laid in a manger, nailed to a cross, and risen again (2 Timothy 2:11-13).

## Application

**- Three ways to waste your life.**

- 1.) Be \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 10:4, 10:26).
- 2.) Be \_\_\_\_\_ (Revelation 3:15-16).
- 3.) Misplace or misrepresent your \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal. 4:18, 1 Cor. 10:31).

**- A gloriously-lived life is a life zealous for \_\_\_\_\_ glory.**

- God uses passionate people to change the world (Romans 12:11).
- To be zealous for God's glory, we must be zealous for God Himself.

- Christian zeal is about daily growing in our affection and praise for God by daily growing in knowledge of Him and service to Him.
- Charles Spurgeon - *“Love to Jesus is the basis of all true piety, and the intensity of this love will ever be the measure of our zeal for His glory. Let us love Him with all our hearts, and then diligent labor, and consistent living will be sure to follow.”*

- 1.) *For whose glory are we truly zealous?*
- 2.) *Do we share God’s zeal for the redemption of the lost?*