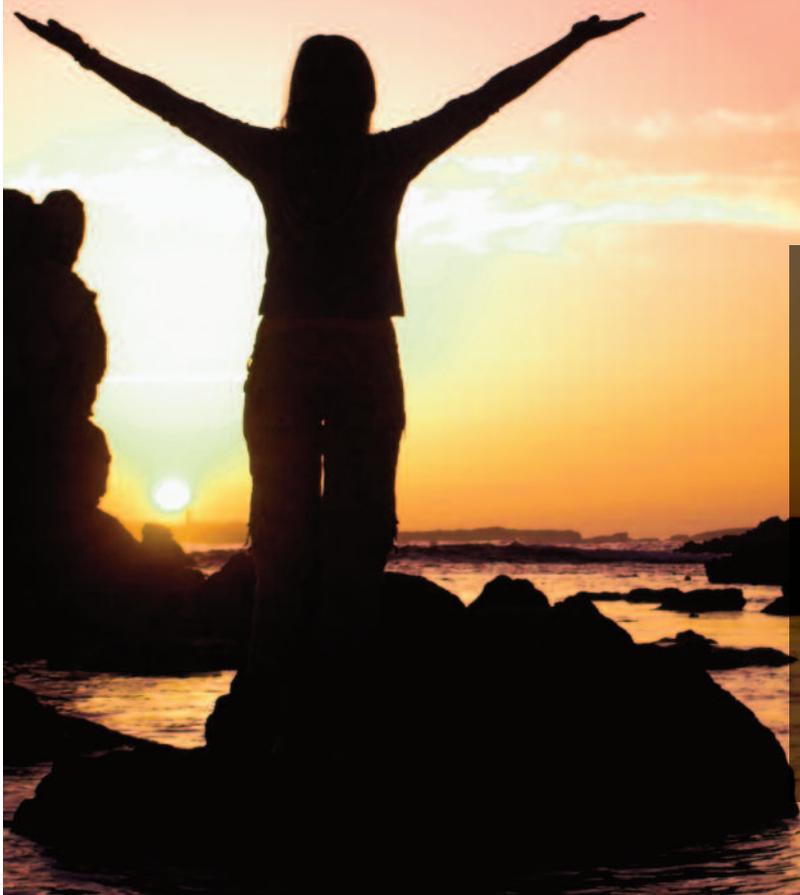


# Zealots

By Ann-Marie Christy



**I**t is easy to be passionate about personal hobbies, loved ones, or commendable causes. So many times, my fervor is channeled toward things of this world, many of which are wonderful and sometimes beneficial, but not always worthy. Recently, I was convicted to evaluate how many of my efforts, thoughts, and drives are centered around self. This includes aspects of my life that, ultimately, will not matter or carry over into eternity. There are so many praiseworthy causes, but many have the potential to steer me away from my main course, which should point directly to Jesus Christ. I find the most subtle distractions also are the most lethal. I may be engaging in a “good” activity for a “good” cause but can easily lose sight of Christ as the main goal.

The question before me is this: Where should my affections, loyalty, and passion reside? God sums it up well in His words to Moses concerning one of the Israelites, Phinehas, who made a bold stand against Israel’s veering away from God toward the foreign, idolatrous nation of Moab. As Numbers 25:11b says, “... for he was as zealous as I am for my honor among them [Israelites]...” In verse 13, God pronounces a blessing over Phinehas, saying, “He and his descendants will have a covenant of a lasting priesthood, because he was zealous for the honor of his God...” This Israelite was passionate about seeing His God honored and revered. The very word zealous brings to mind images of steadfast warriors and uncompromising faith that penetrates to the core of one’s being.

We have purpose if there’s something in our lives to fight for, to live for. In Jesus, there is that purpose and motivation to go on.

If only Christians would be zealous for the honor of Jesus Christ, not that we mow down every opposing person or thing in our path, but hold steadfastly to love, joy, peace, patience, mercy, and purity. At the same time, zeal for the Lord’s honor means avoiding the seduction of this world’s idols or the seemingly benign avenues that steer away from Jesus. May our prayer be for zeal to honor God Almighty in every part of our lives.

*Ann-Marie Christy is a recent graduate of Clemson University, where she majored in English and minored in creative writing.*



## Caughman-Harman Funeral Homes

Serving Families in the Midlands from Four Convenient Locations

 <p><b>Lexington Chapel</b> 503 North Lake Drive Lexington, SC 29072 Phone: (803) 359-6118</p>	<p><b>Irmo/St. Andrews Chapel</b> at Bush River Mem'l Gardens, 5400 Bush River Rd. Columbia, SC 29212 Phone: (803) 772-1231</p>	<p><b>West Columbia Chapel</b> at Southland Mem'l Gardens, 820 West Dunbar Rd. West Columbia, SC 29170 Phone: (803) 755-3527</p>	<p><b>Chapin Chapel</b> 123 Columbia Ave. Chapin, SC 29036 Phone: (803) 345-3500</p>
---	---	--	--

*Call today for your free Family Estate Planning Guide at no cost or obligation*