

# Message Notes

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## Phinehas: A Man Zealous for the Lord

Numbers 25:1-18

*Men of Grace*

*Pastor Steve Leonard*

*June 24, 2007*

# Message Outline

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## Phinehas: A Man Zealous for the Lord

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### I. Phinehas: a man zealous for the Lord. (1-7)

- A. Phinehas' models zeal by acting out of his priestly office.
- B. Phinehas' models zeal by acting out of obedience to God's Word. (Ex 23:24; Lev 26:1)
- C. Phinehas' models zeal by acting out of commitment to God's honor.
- D. Phinehas' models zeal by acting out of his service to God.

### II. Biblical zeal and what we are to do.

- A. Sin and the People of God...
- B. Doing what we're to do and it's results...
  - 1. The LORD's mercy. (8-9)
  - 2. The LORD's blessing. (10-13)
  - 3. The LORD's justice. (14-18)

### III. How we live that life.

- A. The satisfaction of God's wrath. (Rom 5:6-11)
  - 1. Jesus and Phinehas.
  - 2. Jesus, Zimri and Cozbi.
- B. What about us?
  - 1. Holiness of life can only begin with the forgiveness of sin.
  - 2. Believing it...
  - 3. Living it...

## Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Numbers 25:1-18 again. Seeing the narrative arc can give us insight into the intended impact of a passage. In your own words, describe the action of each part of the arc in the space below:
  - Setting—
  - Character Development—
  - Rising Conflict—
  - Climax—
  - Resolution—
  - Following Action—
2. What does God's response to this situation teach us about who God is? What's God's view of sin (check out vv. 3-5, 11-13 & 16-18)?
3. How did Moses' respond to the idolatry, sexual immorality and spiritual apathy of Israel in Numbers 25? How does Moses respond to God? How does Phinehas respond to God? Compare and contrast Moses' response to God with Phinehas' response.
4. What does Numbers 25 teach us about God's wrath (3-5)? About God's mercy (8-13)? About God's justice (16-18)? What does it teach about the nature God's calling on Israel?

## Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What in Phinehas' life is most challenging to you? What's most encouraging? What was something the Lord taught you, or reminded you about Himself?
2. The priest was to represent God's presence in the community. Read 1 Peter 2:4-10. How is the believer's calling and Phinehas' calling alike? How is it different?
3. The main sin issue in Numbers 25 is idolatry and what it led to. What false gods, or idols do you find most alluring? Why? What do you do to resist them?
4. Why do we need to rejoice in God's justice and not merely his mercy and blessing? How should those three realities encourage and comfort us? How should they motivate us to more zealous living?
5. In what area of your life do you have a hard time believing the forgiveness of your sins? For sins that are so heinous you can't believe God would forgive them? Do you struggle with identifying sins in your life because of your moral goodness? How does God's grace challenge both issues in your life?
6. What are some areas of your life that need to be speared through? Be specific. How can you do this though the Gospel?