

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Keep Your Spiritual Fire Burning

SERMON REFERENCE: Revelation 3:14-22

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2339

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We have a big problem in the church today where we believe, but we have no zeal or enthusiasm for the things of God.
 - i) We yawn in the face of God.
- b) There are three divisions in the book of the Revelation.
 - i) Division number one: the things that you've seen.
 - ii) Division number two: the things which are.
 - (1) This is the church age.
 - iii) Division number three: the things that shall be.
- c) In the second division, Revelation contains messages to seven churches.
 - i) Ephesus
 - ii) Smyrna
 - iii) Pergamos
 - iv) Thyatira
 - v) Sardis
 - vi) Philadelphia
 - vii) Laodicea
- d) These seven churches were literal churches in Asia Minor, and they are also symbolic churches that have a message for us today.
- e) At the close of the church age will be the rapture of the church.
 - i) The rapture may happen at any moment.
- f) Today's message will deal with the last of these seven churches: the church at Laodicea.
- g) Revelation 3:14-22
 - i) These churches speak to us prophetically.
 - (1) They show us what the church age is like.
 - ii) They also speak to us practically.
 - (1) There isn't a problem faced by any church today that is not addressed in these seven churches.
 - iii) They speak to us powerfully.
 - (1) Revelation 3:22
 - (a) The Holy Spirit is asking if we are listening.
 - iv) They speak to us personally.
 - (1) This is not what God has said; it is what He is saying.
 - (2) This is not what God is saying in general; it is what He is saying specifically to you.
 - (a) The church is made up of individuals.
- h) In Revelation 1, we see the Lord Jesus pictured standing in the midst of seven golden candlesticks.
 - i) These seven golden candlesticks represent the church.
 - ii) This tells us that Jesus is here with us, in the midst of the church.
 - (1) Matthew 18:20
- i) Revelation 3:14
 - i) Jesus is the factual one.
 - ii) Jesus is the faithful one.

- (1) Whatever He says, you can count on.
 - iii) Jesus is the forceful one.
 - (1) He created it all and is the sovereign Lord.
- 2) THE CURSE OF LUKEWARM CHRISTIANITY (Revelation 3:15-16)
- a) The Greek word for “spew” means to vomit.
 - i) God is saying that there is a sin that nauseates Him.
 - ii) It is the sin that is probably the most prevailing sin in the modern church: the sin of lukewarmness.
 - b) Lukewarmness is the state of being a little too cold to be hot and a little too hot to be cold.
 - i) Too cold to boil and too hot to freeze.
 - c) The Lord here is not talking to the out-and-out sinner or to the atheist, nor is He speaking to those who are zealous and have a burning passion for Christ.
 - i) He is speaking to those who are in between.
 - (1) The half-hearted Christian.
 - d) How do you know if you’re lukewarm?
 - i) Indifferent about personal holiness and sanctification.
 - (1) The passion of our hearts ought to be holiness.
 - (a) Mark 7:6
 - (2) We won’t tell an out-and-out lie, but we will tell those little lies.
 - (a) We see someone we don’t like, and we say, “It’s good to see you.”
 - (3) We may not steal, but we don’t pay our debts.
 - (4) We do not commit adultery, but we laugh at filthy jokes.
 - ii) A lack of concern for serving others.
 - (1) Do we pray and weep over our Sunday school classes?
 - (2) Are we concerned for the unsaved in our churches and our communities?
 - iii) Our singing is not Spirit-filled.
 - (1) Ephesians 5:18-19
 - (2) We should sing with gladness, urgency and feeling.
 - iv) A lack of real hunger for the Scriptures.
 - (1) We often believe the Bible in general, but we don’t believe it with specificity.
 - (2) Most Christians have never read the Bible through.
 - (3) We do not spend time in the Word of God.
 - (4) We do not love the Word of God.
 - v) Prayer time is not a priority.
 - (1) When was the last time we missed a meal to pray?
 - (2) When was the last time we fasted and prayed for a day?
 - (3) The devil would rather us keep our buildings, programs, classes, etc., as long as we leave out the power of Almighty God that comes through earnest, persistent prayer.
 - (a) The good often becomes a substitute for the best.
 - (b) We need to learn how to pray.
 - (c) James 5:16

- vi) Reluctant to sacrifice.
 - (1) Many Christians are too embarrassed to carry their Bibles to work.
 - (2) Some are ashamed of the Lord Jesus and will not bow their heads to give thanks in public for their meal.
 - (3) Most of our giving never changes our lifestyles.
 - (4) We pray without fasting, give without sacrifice, witness without tears; is it any wonder we sow without reaping?
 - vii) A lack of passion for soul-winning.
 - (1) Do we have a passion for the lost?
 - (2) Do we believe that our next door neighbor without Jesus is doomed to hell?
 - (3) It is our responsibility and glorious privilege to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - e) The harm of lukewarmness:
 - i) Lukewarm Christians are the alibi of sinners.
 - (1) Jesus had rather us be on the wrong side of the fence than sitting on the fence.
 - (2) Revelation 3:15-16
 - ii) Lukewarmness sets us up for other sins.
 - (1) The lukewarm Christian is a sitting duck for the devil.
- 3) THE CAUSE OF LUKEWARM CHRISTIANITY (Revelation 3:17)
- a) Their indifference was caused by their ignorance of their own need.
 - i) They didn't know what their need was.
 - b) The lukewarm Christian is generally the last one to know that he is lukewarm.
 - i) There are none so blind as those who refuse to see.
 - ii) Revelation 3:22
 - c) Revelation 3:18
 - i) Laodicea was famous for three things:
 - (1) Its wool.
 - (2) Its wealth in gold.
 - (3) It was a medical center that treated blindness.
 - ii) God the Holy Spirit is telling them that in spite of their wool, wealth and medicine, they need a holy fire.
 - d) The complacency and self-satisfaction of lukewarmness can begin gradually.
 - i) Revelation 2:2-4
 - (1) The Lord said many wonderful things about the church at Ephesus.
 - (2) However, they had left their first love.
 - (a) First love is enthusiastic.
 - (b) First love doesn't count the cost.
 - (3) They still loved the Lord, but there was a time when they had loved Him more.
 - ii) We can become lukewarm when we assume we are alright and begin cooling down by degrees.
- 4) THE CURE FOR LUKEWARM CHRISTIANITY (Revelation 3:18)
- a) They needed the gold of God's glory; gold that had been through the fire.

- i) To know how rich you are, add up everything you have that money cannot buy and death cannot take away.
- b) They needed the garments of God's righteousness.
 - i) They thought they were clothed; they assumed they were alright.
 - ii) The white raiment speaks of righteousness.
 - iii) They thought they could see, but the natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 2:14

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Revelation 3:19
- b) Lukewarmness is a horrible sin.
 - i) The greatest commandment is to love God with all of our heart.
 - ii) In contrast, the greatest sin is to not love God with all of our heart.
 - (1) If I do not love God with all of my heart, am I willing to repent?
- c) Revelation 3:20
 - i) The Lord is speaking to those who are in the church but are not saved.
 - ii) Will you open your heart's door and let Him in?
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31