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