

CHECKING OUR THERMOSTAT

When I climbed out of bed Saturday morning, I could tell right away the temperature in the house had dropped overnight. Nadine got up to inform me that she noticed the temperature drop and replaced the batteries in the thermostat during the middle of the night thinking that it might fix the problem. We both thought the worst at this moment: that our furnace was not working.

So many negative thoughts began to go through my mind, starting with why did this have to happen on a weekend when the temperatures were as cold as they were? I also began to worry that if the furnace needed a part, would they have it on their service vehicle or would we have to wait until Monday to get it working? I also began contemplating whether we should stay in the house and endure the cold if we could not get the heat back on after the service call or stay at my mom's house. Naturally, the cheap side of me began to worry how much more it would cost having a contractor come in on a weekend.

When I got down to our main level I went over to the thermostat and saw the temperature in the house had already dropped to 15 degrees Celsius. When I looked at the thermostat, I noticed that the setting was not on heat. I switched the setting back to heat, and said a prayer while waiting to hear if the furnace would kick in. It seemed like an eternity, but I heard the furnace ignite and the sound of heat blowing through our registers. It took about 2-3 hours before our house got back to our normal temperature of 21 degrees Celsius, but thankfully our problem was resolved, and this cheap pastor was happy that he did not have to open his wallet to get it fixed.

I discovered Saturday morning that it was not only me who wanted to see the temperature and heat begin to rise. A few hours later I ran into a person I know at Tim Hortons who said that he has had enough with these cold temperatures we have had to endure and cannot wait for the return of warmer weather. His words reminded me how when I made that same comment to somebody recently, they replied by saying, **"Well you need to remember we are living in Canada!"**.

It is usually around this time of year when we turn the calendars from January to February that we begin to desire to see some signs of warming temperatures. On Monday, many of us may have checked to see what Wiarton Willie had to say about how much longer winter would last. All of this talk about wanting to see a change toward warmer temperatures got

me thinking about a passage found in the book of Revelation where Jesus expressed a desire to see believers in the church in Laodicea turn up the temperature and warmth in their hearts when it came to their relationship with Him.

Believers in the church in Laodicea naturally started off their relationship with Jesus having a burning desire in their hearts to follow and serve Him. Over time, Jesus began to notice the temperature dropping in their hearts. This is how Jesus described it in **Revelation 3: 15-16, 19:**

I know all of the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.

Jesus could see the temperature setting that these believers once had in their hearts toward Him had dropped to the point of being just lukewarm. One of the things that caused this was these believers were becoming more focused on material things rather than eternal things, and they started putting their relationship with Him on the back burner. Jesus obviously did not like what He was seeing and encouraged them to make adjustments so that they did not remain just lukewarm toward Him or cool off entirely.

Hopefully lukewarm does not describe the temperature settings in our hearts when it comes to Jesus. A sip of lukewarm water on an extremely hot day is not as desirable and enjoyable as sipping from a cool and refreshing glass. The same is true when sipping from a cup of coffee or tea that is just lukewarm. There is nothing like sipping from a hot cup of tea or coffee on a cold day.

Just like in these examples, we should not be satisfied with a faith that is lukewarm. If we have become indifferent of late toward Jesus and allowed that burning desire we had in our hearts for Him to reduce to the point of being just lukewarm, it is time for us to switch that setting. Let's hit the switch in our hearts again, letting the sparks that come from worshipping Him, speaking to Him in prayer, and following Him whole-heartedly help us to no longer have a lukewarm setting when it comes to faith.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean