

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Revelation 3:14-22
October 24, 2021

Knock, knock! Time for your temperature check.

- Put yourself in the place of the pastor receiving this letter from Jesus.
 - ♦ *What? Everything is going so well. My people will not like this message.*
- Aren't you glad Jesus didn't address this letter to Peace?
 - ♦ *Wait! What was that last line?*
 - ♦ ***Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.***
 - ♦ Jesus is speaking to every pastor - every church - every Christian

Knock, knock! Time for your temperature check.

- ❖ Jesus is not seeking to shame. It's a house call out of love.
 - ***I rebuke and discipline those whom I love. So take this seriously and repent.***
 - *Love - brotherly love, fraternal love* - The One who made us part of his family
 - Jesus cares about his own. Seeking to rescue them from death by apathy.
 - Take his loving knock seriously. Learn from Jesus to do a temperature check.
- ❖ The problem: content with a false contentment
 - ***"I am rich. I have become very wealthy and need nothing."***
 - ♦ Living a comfortable life. *My needs are met. I'm happy. God is happy with me.*
 - ♦ *Jesus loves me this I know. Isn't that all you need to know?*
 - ♦ Do you struggle with this? You hear, *Jesus died on the cross to save us from all our guilt, so we can be children of God and go to heaven.* You think, *yes, yes, I know that. Tell me something new.* Finding the heart of the gospel boring.
 - When I suffer from any or all of these I need a temperature check! I need to stand in front of the mirror of the ***Amen, the faithful and true witness*** for his reality check: ***you are miserable, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.***
 - ♦ *Amen* - Hebrew: firm/sure = Truth, reality
 - ♦ ***the faithful and true witness*** - ***genuine/primary witness***
 - the One with the Father from eternity - the eyewitness to God and all he says
 - Christ the Prophet - God's primary, ultimate, and final witness to reality
 - ***Faithful***: every word is spot on. ***Witness***: testifies to God - Greek: *martyr*
 - Jesus was put to death for his witness to the truth
 - His resurrection - only fools try to silence or sideline Jesus. **Listen to him!**
 - ♦ ***The ruler of God's creation*** - through him all things that were made, were made.
 - He's the Source of the stuff - your wealth. Rely on the Source, not stuff for life.
 - If stuff is your life - you are *poor, naked, and blinded* by your comforts
- ❖ ***The Amen, the faithful and true witness*** has a better offer: eternal life, life with him.
 - Real, lasting, purified ***gold*** - treasure stored up for you in heaven incorruptible.
 - ***White garment*** - pure in his righteousness (made white by the blood of the Lamb) that cleanses and covers you in your baptism and daily robes you before God
 - Anointing ***salve*** of the Spirit that cures sin, Satan, and sinful societies blindness so you can see the Living God and reality.

- Superior to the stuff Laodicea was known for.
 - ◆ their mint that purified precious metal and minted coins
 - ◆ their garments made of local wool, brightly colored or made from black wool
 - ◆ their unique salve widely used for healing
 - ◆ These industries made them wealthy, proud, and content with their life.
 - ◆ But these things were so inferior to what Jesus offered.
 - *miserable* (state, not feelings): *wretched, of poor quality or condition*
- This speaks to American Christians.
 - ◆ *Proud to be an American* - a life many covet and come here to have
 - ◆ Our prosperity tempts us to become *falsely content* with our standard of living.
 - ◆ Jesus says, *You are lukewarm. You make me sick. I'm so disgusted with your false faith - reliance on the wrong stuff - I'm about to spit you out of my mouth.*
 - Note: *spit out* - Greek: *vomit*. A number of reliable translations translate *vomit*.
 - Serious stuff. Jesus is repulsed by your own false contentment - misplaced life
- ❖ ***I stand at the door and knock.*** Jesus is our doctor who makes house calls.
 - Addressed to a church of lukewarm sick believers. Not to convert unbelievers!
 - Note where Jesus is! Outside! Not in the home. Like *a servant on standby*.
 - Hear the familiar voice. The voice first heard in the gospel - that gave us life/light.
 - How did we become so lukewarm that Jesus is an after thought?
 - Jesus wants to dine with us, intimate fellowship, live with us, part of our family
 - When Jesus & his word fills our home & life the transition from this life to the next is moving from being at home with Jesus here to being at home with him forever.
 - ◆ When he reigns in our life now we will reign with him forever. That's really rich!
 - ◆ If that doesn't raise your temperature and keep it high - you are dead.
 - Back when homes were heated by open fireplaces
 - ◆ A pastor visited his parishioner whom he had not seen in church for some time.
 - ◆ Entering the home - took the tongs, pulled a hot coal out, set it on the edge
 - ◆ The coal went from red hot to faint to about to go out.
 - ◆ Setting it back in the midst of the hot coals, it quickly heated, become red hot
 - ◆ The parishioner said, *Pastor, I understand. I'll see you in church.*
 - ◆ Word and Sacrament fuel our faith.
 - But refusal to follow and live Jesus' words smothers faith.
 - Gathering, modeling, encouraging each other to live the word fans the flames.
- ❖ Jesus' call to daily take a temperature check applies to his church.
 - It starts with each believer - personally and in their home
 - All who taste this love of Jesus also takes a temperature check of their congregation.
 - ◆ Not judging their fellow believers, but sharing their experiences hearing the *knock* of Jesus, welcoming him to fuel the flames of faith every day all day long.
 - ◆ Taste the riches Jesus brings when you take these words seriously and live a life of repentance - turning away from distraction and back to Jesus.
 - ◆ Do you hear it?

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