



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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No PLACE or TIME for APATHY

Message preached on Sunday Morning, September 21, 2025

Opening #1 – Zeal

Psalms 69:9 – “For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.”

NOTE: This Scripture is brought out in John, after Jesus overturned the tables in the temple (by the disciples).

ORIGINALLY: It is brought up by David.

We can see this SO MUCH in David, by how he treated the presence of God (ark coming back to Israel)... His praise was unlimited. Nothing stopping Him.

Talking about praise...he grew up praising...1 Samuel 16, he drove out evil spirits with his praise.

We can see it in his preparation of the temple (so His son Solomon could build it)...giving literally billions of dollars to it from his own personal account.

There is NOTHING MORE that David wanted...then to be and care for the HOUSE of the Lord. He had a zeal for it.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We must also bring up that David didn't lose a battle. He was a liberator for all who were around him. He took those in debt, discontent and distressed and made them wealthy and victorious.

I know we can give the reason for his results to a lot of things...prayer, praise, enquiring of the Lord, covenant, and on and on.

HOWEVER: I would be willing to submit that it was all wrapped up inside the bow of the ZEAL OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

***His passion for the things of God.
Not passivity...but passion.***

He didn't sit around and wait for things to come to him...he pressed in...we went after...he was aggressive for the things of God.

BELOVED: What does a ZEAL for the house of God look like for us?

- * Zeal for the people of God.
- * Zeal for the local church.
- * Zeal for the things of God.
- * Zeal for the Word of God.
- * Zeal for the presence of God.

The list goes on and on...it is a passion for ALL that God has given to us.

Opener #2 – Charlie Kirk

A little over a week ago, a gentleman was assassinated on the campus of Utah State University. Killed for what he believed. Charlie Kirk.

There have been a lot of conversations regarding him over the past 11 days...probably more than had happened in his previous years doing what he did.

Charlie Kirk was a political activist...there is no doubt. I know some believe him to be an evangelist...but he honestly doesn't fit the profile as an evangelist (in the Biblical sense)...

- * but many would say, truthfully, but He spoke about Jesus so much (he did),
- * he was used by God to spread the good news (he was),
- * he sat in front of hundreds if not thousands at a time and talked about Jesus (he did),
- * so he **MUST** be an evangelist (not so fast).

NOW...I am not going to argue this point...but I will submit to you something that the Holy Spirit dropped in my spirit regarding this.

Charlie Kirk was a political activist...he started the organization Turning Point which literally is defined as an organization that advocates for conservative politics on college campuses.

That was his job...it is what he did...it is where he went **EVERY** day.

In the MIDDLE of his job...He pointed people to Jesus.

Charlie many times said he wanted to be known as a man of God.

THEREFORE: He did what a man of God would do...He shared Jesus with others.

If you are a man of God...you CANNOT be okay with people going to hell.

You are cannot be okay with people living in the bondage of sin and deception.

In our work places...in the middle of our jobs...we **MUST** point people to Jesus.

We may not be called to operate as an evangelist...but we are absolutely called to **EVANGELIZE!**

MAKE IT CLEAR: I am not saying everything he believed from the Bible is perfect...I am not saying he was perfect. I am saying his **ZEAL** for God caused him to point others to Jesus.

Charlie had something that is missing in most churches today. The zeal for the house of God.
Zeal for the things of God.

YOU SEE...that zeal called him to action, no matter the cost.

Opening #3 - Apathy in the Church

So, that was going on...I've been meditating on hit for several days...thinking and talking about it.
Heartbroken for his friends and family.

SITTING in church on Wednesday night (before service)...aware of many who would not be in church that night...aware of many who had so much going on...getting ready to start church with three in the chairs (a couple came in right on time)...

I asked God...what's going on?

He said, "It's apathy!"

I thought I knew what it meant...but I went ahead and googled it to make sure.

"Apathy" – an absence or suppression of passion, emotion, or excitement; it is a lack of interest or concern for things, passivity.

YOU SEE apathy is a dangerous place for a Christian to be.

Philippians 3:13,14

- 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
 God calls us to be moving, pressing, reaching forth, a desire to finish the race strong.

REMEMBER: The video I played several weeks ago on Wednesday night of the people who forgot to finish the race...and lost.

But when you lose your emotion...passion for the race, you will lose your drive to finish strong.

HONESTLY, what it comes down to is your ZEAL for the House of God.

QUESTION: What does apathy look like in the church?

- * Spiritual fatigue (don't want to pray, read or go to church).
- * Luke warm
- * Slothful (lazy)
- * Spiritual neglect (the things you used to do, you don't do).
- * Lack of action (no evangelism, no servant hood).
- * Dullness of hearing (the pastor AND GOD speaks, you don't hear).

You cannot say you have a ZEAL for God and are NOT living in apathy if you don't desire to be around God's people...obey Him...listen to Him!

APATHY can come when people face abundant prosperity (living really good, don't need Jesus anymore – Deuteronomy 8:18) or in the face of extreme difficulty (too many things going on, Jesus gets moved to the back – Galatians 6:9).

Proverbs 15:19 – “The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.”

(AMP) – “The way of the sluggard is overgrown with thorns [it pricks, lacerates, and entangles him], but the way of the righteous is plain and raised like a highway.”

(PASSION) – “Nothing seems to work right for the lazy man, but life seems smooth and easy when your heart is virtuous.”

We must eradicate apathy and passivity...and re-ignite the zeal of God.

We must!

The Church at Laodicea

While John was on the Island of Patmos...God showed him a revelation of the end of time, which he then wrote down.

The revelation started with seven letters to seven churches...it pointed out those things that God saw the churches were doing good...and it pointed out those things that the churches needed to correct.

He finished every letter with the statement: ***“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”***

Which is for us...don't be dull of hearing...listen to these warnings and proceed appropriately.

Revelation 3:14-19

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

“The Amen” – It starts with Him and stops with Him. He sees it all.

This brings the point across that if He says it...it is settled.

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

We have discussed this point previously, but it is worth repeating.

I think it can be confusing to think that God wants us cold for Him and not hot for Him.

But that is NOT what it is saying at all.

This was an example that the church at Laodicea understood very well.

Laodicea was an amazingly wealthy city...the church had very little persecution. It was RICH...rich people called Laodicea rich.

MAIN problem in this city was their water supply.

About 9 miles to their south was the city of Colossae that sat at the bottom of some mountains and had an abundant supply of ice cold water flowing from the mountains...oh it was good.

About 6 miles to their north was the city of Heiropolis that was known for its hot mineral springs. Wealthy people would travel there to soak in the hot waters.

Laodicea had neither.

So they had a plan...run a series of pipes (clay pipes) from Colossae and Heiropolis to Laodicea and they would have the best of both worlds.

PROBLEM: By the time the water traveled 6 miles and 9 miles...it was not longer ice cold and no longer hot...it was lukewarm!

NOT ONLY THAT: But the clay pipes had gotten in the water and it was not pure water...it was GROSS! So they would DRINK IT and spit it out...cough...spit...

IT WAS NOT WHAT THEY PLANNED FOR IT TO BE!

I think it can be safe to say that this does not mean that you are NOT necessarily going to heaven...but you are not doing what you were intended to do. You stink and need to get it right.

The Problem?

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

REMEMBER: Deuteronomy 8? They forgot.

Instead of stirring the fire in themselves...they sat and waited for the fire to get to them.

Instead of refreshing move of the Spirit...they sat and waited for the refreshing to come.

They got complacent.

“Wretched” – calloused.

I will say it this way, apathy had set in.

The passion they used to have...was gone! Passivity had set in.

They no longer had a tender heart...a listening ear...a passionate stirring...they sat and waited.

BELOVED: Does that describe you?

- * Do you take the things of God lightly?
- * Are there a list of other things that you find more important?
- * Will you obey...when it is convenient?
- * Will you evangelize...when it they ask?
- * Will you walk by faith...when everything is cool?
- * Will you go to church...when everything feels good?
- * Will you pray...when it is needed?
- * Will you serve...when it fits into your schedule?

The list goes on and on...it is apathy. It is dangerous.

It may not send you to hell...but it will trip you up and keep you from being what God created you to be...
and that will keep you searching and frustrated.

What are we to do?

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

If He loves you...He will correct you.

- a.) Be zealous
- b.) Repent – change the way you think.

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

“Counsel” – to come together and agree to change.

God is not asking you to do this by yourself...He is going to help you.

1.) You must buy this stuff.

YOU SAY: So money? Eh, maybe!

What does it mean when you buy something? It means you paid the price for it.

UNDERSTAND: I know that Jesus paid the price for your salvation...but we must pay the price to follow Him.

- * We must run the race.
- * We must be doers of the work and the Word.
- * We must have the zeal for the house of the Lord.
- * We must serve.
- * We must stay in intimacy with Him.
- * We must be faithful stewards.
- * We must give.
- * We must count the cost.

Luke 14:25-33

He brings out the person who starts building a building...but runs out of money, will be thought a fool. Because he will just end up sitting there doing nothing.

What must we buy with this price?**2.) Gold tried in the fire.**

This is representing true wealth.

God's glory! It does not mean we must go through tough times.

God's wealth is what we are after.

2 Peter 1:3,4

- 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
- 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

3.) White raiment.

Purity, holiness and salvation.

Isaiah 61:10 – garments of salvation

There is a price to be paid for holiness...doing what is right.

4.) Anointed eyes.

Not dull.

Ephesians 1:17-19

- 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
- 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
- 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,