

JUL. 14:1-7, 16:1-4

(1) 1/2. "Light the Fires!" It's cold in here!"

Introd:- (1). It's cold in here! Light the Fires!
Hold it, ushers! Plenty warm physically. But sometimes people come into church where atmos at 70 deg..and say:-
"It's cold in here." Spir atmos. down near zero..or per. worse still...somewhere about a drowsy lukewarmness...and God says that condition in church makes Him sick..Rev. 3.Wait moment. Do you, do I ever have to look within own soul...so-called spir. life..and say.."It's cold in here ??". "Colder than it used to be." Hymn writer said it this way.."Where is the blessedness I knew, when first I met the Lord.?" Illus:- Deacon's prayer.."Lord fill me with Thy Spirit." "Don't you do it, Lord, he leaks." WE ALL LEAK like battery with terminal touching ground...like tire with faulty valve...like shack with cracks in wall..and hear leaking out...It gets to be cold in here!

(2). By now.."What's this queer pulpit-thumper getting at?" I'll tell you..as straight as I know..like it is. I am talking about X'ns..converted sinners..I mean the real thing. People who came to day, hour, critical moment when Jesus X..mighty God the Son came inside to LIVE His life through us..Sinners who knew sinners without even Bible saying so. Youngsters or oldsters who were startled into drastic realization that what Calvary meant was that God came down into human form..body of a man..and there shed His sinless blood for the bloodguilty sin of man..to redeem Him us. You/people..I trust all of you..~~who~~ know the starry-eyed wonder of having all sins forgiven..by grace and love of God..cleansed from stains..fitted for heaven..AND INTO HEART CAME ANSWERING LOVE..GLOWING JOY...THE FIRE BURNED! Remember? I do! Conversion..went home 3 ft off ground!

God lit a fire in soul..love fire..that made it joy to live for Him..witness..try lead others to X..read Bible..get to prayer meet..on to Bible School..per. mission field.

(3). AND DAYS AND WEEKS AND MONTHS AND YEARS ROLLED ON..
..and what then? Not trying be pessimist..paint gloom..
but face reality. John wrote to church at Ephesus.."You have left your first love." Cooled off..opted out..

Illus:- Some marriages like that..Young ardour..passion..devotion...and then a dribbling away into humdrum boredom toleration..with a snarl here and there in place of smile.

mk 10 - Rich young ruler.

I. What's it all about? Why does this happen to us?

(a). Mind if I talk about a well-known scientif. law?

2nd law of thermodynamics..known as entropy. Now we've got scientif. names off chest..let's talk English!

It's simply this: That energy tends to dissipate and become irrecoverable. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ALARM CLOCK WHEN WENT OFF ABOUT NOON ON SATURDAY? Spring was tripped..rang bell..until ran out of steam..and you went back to sleep! AND YOU WILL HAVE TO PUT ENERGY..YOURS..BACK INTO IT..WIND IT UP AGAIN! And tomorrow that energy of yours..stored..be dissipated. never see it again! This goes on in whole Universe..c/f 1. (b). Let me suggest that there is similar law in social realm that makes marriages run down..AND IN SPIRITUAL REALM THAT MAKES HOT X'NS GROW COLD..LIVE CHURCHES LUKEWARM, DEAD. We've per. sung song "There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight." Isn't it time we prayed.."Give us a hot time in the old church today"? GOD CALLS THAT "REVIVAL".

II. Take time to look at a real problem character..bygone days.

- (a). Heb. name "Shimshei"..sunshine..(Mother surely named him! What name for a real strong man..weight lifter..lion hunter..fire-bug..jaw-bone fighter! We know him as mighty SAMSON. Born at critical time..when lamp of faith burned low..critical days like ours. AND BEGAN SO WELL...Jud. 13:5 proph.."He shall BEGIN to deliver Israel."vs. 24-25. "And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times." Great fellow! Full of zeal and zip!
- (b). For time all well..14:5-6."A young lion roared against him. And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand." Later when Philistines came upon him..vs. 15.."He found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith." Mighty man indeed! Used of God. Enthusiastic warrior.
- (c). Do I have to recount the dismal subsequences? Hot zeal suffered sad entropy..began dissipate. Fire cooled off. AND HE BEGAN TO LIVE FOR SELF..SELF SATISFAC....Saw Philis. woman..and, despite protest of parents.."Old folks..old stick-in-mud variety"..14:3 "Get her for me, for she pleaseth me well." Wanted marry ungodly woman...like a X'n young fellow today marrying unsaved gal..bec. "she pleases ME"..and forget what God says..Vice versa.. Fluffy bit..Handsome Harry.. From there Samson got the SEX CRAZE..became BIG with him. like today..distorted beyond right, holy, lovely place. 16:1 "Samson went to Gaza (big city lights dazzled) and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her." Permissive society not new. As old as the devil's dirty ways. And finally Samson "loved" a woman named Delilah." AND THERE THE ENTROPY OF HIS LIFE RAN OUT..Strength Gone..and then came the bind..blind and grind of miserable slave existence. Done for! Lost out.

How ~~was~~ the mighty fallen! THAT..TO ..THIS!

The fire went out...and it was so cold in prison house...
and in heart of poor Samson. HOW IS IT WITH US?

What about the first love? Hot for God? Lukewarm?

What about longings for holiness? Compassion for lost?

What about giving of the life to His direction? What

about His call..once heard..but now only faint echo...?

May God search us fully..seriously. Have we real need?

Think about it a moment. Am I what God wants me to be?

Conclus:- 1.

A need? / / / / /?.....Is God moving us to ask this:

"How do you light the fires?"

.....Samson's fire was lit again....16:28.."Samson called
unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray
thee, only this once, O God." His strength came again.

2. Time to ASK GOD. Then act with power He gives.

He will light a fire as we ^{confession} wait on Him...as we feed on His
Word. Jer. 23:29 says "Is not my word like as a fire?
saith the Lord." David said (Ps. 39:3) "While I was musing,

the fire burned..my heart was hot within me..then spake I
with my tongue." *Real fire - Beware of cold fire - Not - but away from word*

3. Our ~~heart~~ prayer today for young men..women..take time
out..to fill life with Word of God...until fire of God
burns in soul. And God waiting to do this for you at
Bible School. I AM SURE HE WILL...and keep life from
becoming Samsonite..a sunshine life with sunshine gone out.
Set your heart towards GOD..NOW.

Illus:- Titanic..Californian...

When on April 14, 1912, the signals of distress pierced the dark night of the North Atlantic in all directions from the *Titanic*, the S.S. *Californian* was nearest to the scene of the accident. It would have required only about one and a half hours under forced draft for the *Californian* to have reached the *Titanic*. (This was acknowledged by the commanding officer during the subsequent investigation in Washington.) Still the *Californian* never reached the place where the *Titanic* sank.

"Why did you not sail to the scene of the accident when the wireless reached you?" inquired Senator William Smith of Michigan at the investigation. The officer shifted uncomfortably in the witness chair.

"We feared icebergs and were lying motionless. For this reason we had banked our fires and had no steam up." Such was the explanation given as to why the *Californian*, which could have reached the *Titanic* before it sank, never got there and never rescued a single soul.

No fire, no power, no one rescued!

Is there then no power that can save from shipwreck? Certainly there is, but deliverance is not accomplished by means of new techniques; nor are the demons of the storm exorcised by beautiful terminology. Light the fires again! When the flame of God is burning in the soul of a young man, the world is powerless against him. ☩

2 paths in life.."Son, go
work in my vineyard..I GO SIR
Today - on eve of great things -

Boothell CMA - Calgary - Sept 17/72