**Let’s Get Fired Up!**

**Text: Luke 12:43-49**

There are several uses of "fire" in the Bible.

1. Of God --"a consuming fire" ***(Hebrews 12:29) For our God is a consuming fire.***

2. Of the testing of our deeds in judgment. ***(1 Corinthians 3:13) each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.***

3. Of Eternal punishment -- ***(Matthew 5:22) "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.***

4. And sometimes, as here, of an ordeal that tests our faith and purifies us for better service ***(2 Timothy 2:19-21) Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." {20} But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. {21} Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.***

5. John the Baptist, sent by the Messiah, like a "refiner's fire" and "fuller's soap" to purify and strengthen ***(Malachi 3:2-3) "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap. {3} He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.***

**THERE IS THE FIRE OF TESTING--STRENGTHENS & DESTROYS**

***(1 Peter 1:6-7) In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, {7} that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,***

***(Hebrews 10:32-33) But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: {33} partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;***

***(2 Timothy 3:12) Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.***

***(Acts 5:41) So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.***

***(Matthew 5:11-12) "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. {12} "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.***

**THERE IS A FIRE OF CONTROVERSY--MANIFESTS THOSE APPROVED**

***(1 Corinthians 11:19) For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.***

***(Luke 11:23) "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.***

***(Matthew 10:34-37) "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. {35} "For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; {36} "and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' {37} "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.***

***(Jude 1:3) Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.***

***(Galatians 2:5) to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.***

***(John 3:19) "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

**THERE IS A FIRE OF ENTHUSIASM--THE FORCE BEHIND WORK**

***(Romans 10:1-3) Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. {2} For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. {3} For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.***

***(Psalms 127:1-3) Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. {2} It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved. {3} Sons are indeed a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.***

***(John 2:14-17) And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business. {15} When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. {16} And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" {17} Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."***

***(Titus 2:14) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.***

***(Deuteronomy 14:2) For you are a people holy to the LORD your God; it is you the LORD has chosen out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession.***

***(2 Peter 3:9) The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.***