Date: 10/05/19

Title: Thermostat or Thermometer (See similar title on 4/11/15. This is a complete rewrite.)

Theme: When we are connected to Jesus, He is able to forgive our sins and save us.

Objects: Thermometer and thermostat. Furnace oil line filter, burner nozzle, dust mask, gloves, dirty shirt. Picture of furnace.

Text: 1 John 1:9 (KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What a wonderful promise from God’s word!

Has anyone noticed a change in the weather?

Is it getting hotter or colder?

Yes! Fall is here and the temperatures are dropping.

Last night it got down to 36° where we live.

That’s just four degrees above freezing!

I’ve been trying to make it as long as possible before turning the furnace on because it costs money to run the furnace. You have to buy fuel oil that’s burned in the furnace and that costs money.

But last night it was so cold that I had to finally turn the furnace on to keep our house warm.

Now before I turn the furnace on every fall, I have to clean it out.

Cleaning the furnace is a really dirty job. I don’t know if it’s the dirtiest job in the world, but it is the dirtiest job I have to do. So let me tell you about cleaning the furnace.

[Show picture of furnace and tell how it comes apart. Show oil filter and burner nozzle. Show clothes and protective gear. Tell about brushing the inside of the furnace and vacuuming up all the soot.]

Now I really don’t like to clean the furnace, but I love what the furnace does for our house.

What a difference when the furnace came on! Our house was nice and toasty and warm!

Now how does a furnace know when to come on?

Every house has a thermostat, that looks something like this: [show thermostat.]

You set the thermostat to a certain temperature with this little lever (or dial).

These electrical wires are connected to the furnace. If the temperature in the room is too low, the thermostat sends an electrical signal to the furnace that turns it on. When the temperature gets too high, it sends a signal to turn off the furnace.

Now this is another device that we find in many homes. It’s a thermometer. [Show thermometer.]

A thermometer can tell you the temperature in a room, but it can’t turn on the furnace.

If it’s too cold in the room, the thermometer can tell you how cold it is, but it cannot make it warm.

These two things, a thermometer and a thermostat, remind me of what it’s like to be a Christian.

People who don’t know Jesus or don’t love Him and trust Him are like this thermometer.

They know in their hearts that they have disobeyed the commandments of God and so they’re sinners.

But without Jesus, there is no way for their sins to be forgiven!

It’s like the thermometer telling you it’s freezing in the room, but it has no way to make it warm.

But if you are a Christian who loves and trusts in Jesus, you are like this thermostat.

You have a connection to Jesus like the thermostat has a connection to the furnace.

When you pray and ask Jesus to forgive you, it’s like the electrical signal that turns on the furnace.

If we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

So when you’re connected to Jesus like this thermostat, you can be toasty and warm in the kingdom of God with you sins forgiven.

How many want to be like this thermostat and be connected to Jesus?

