

## Heaven: Repent and Return

### Monday, January 8, 2024 - Day 2

#### Read Revelation 2:1-7

#### Key Verse:

“Nevertheless, I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.” Revelation 2:4-5 (NKJV)

#### Key Reflection:

Jesus speaks to the church at Ephesus regarding their patient endurance and good deeds in the earth. This body was doing the things of the church. However, there was one thing missing. They were not being the body of Christ because they were not loving God. Love, that is not self-centered is the necessary characteristic of discipleship and reflects the love of God and Christ.<sup>2</sup> It is the love for Christ that should influence and motivate every good work. Love for Christ will keep the presence (lampstand) of God in place. Christ desires that we desire Him.

#### Thought:

The refusal to repent is characteristic of a rebellious and uncomprehending humanity.<sup>3</sup> This should not and cannot be the position of body of Christ. Jesus has given us the gift of repentance through Christ who has given the privilege to turn away from Him so that we can turn to Him. Never be so full of pride to the point that you cannot return to your first love. Love begins and ends with Christ, who is the Alpha and Omega. Return to Christ so that you will be found faithful when Christ returns.

#### Prayer:

Lord, I repent of my ways where I have rejected you. I repent of the times where I have ignored you and placed my affection toward something else. I humbly repent of my ways that are not pleasing in your sight. Thank you for making a way for me to repent to you. Reveal to me the places, people and things that compete for time that I should be sharing with you. Illumine the places in me to where need to be more like you. You are my first love. Call me back to you in 2024. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. How can you love God more this year?
2. How committed are you to spending time with God to exhibit how you love Christ?

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<sup>2</sup> Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 575.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 575.