



“Back to the Father”

Sun June 19, 2022

- I. **Revelation 2:1-7** (7 churches, Ephesus was the first)
 - A. **First Love**
 1. Key Word – **First** (When you hear this word, what comes to mind?)
 - *(Protos) Foremost in time, place, order, and importance; chief*
 - What is first is your priority; and the law of submission to higher authority works on this level: *What is first in your life will have power over those things that are second.*
 2. The only other scripture with this phrase is **I John 4:19** “We love Him because He first loved us.” (God so loved the world....)
 3. Who/What do you love? God, Wife/Husband, Children....Job, Going to the Beach/Mountains....Life?
 - *Here is the key: If you love someone or something, you invest your time into it; it becomes your priority (your first love). (Listening and learning).*
 - *When you love God, what does that mean? Keep His commandments, right? And what is the First Commandment? Answer: Love the Lord your God....(If God is first in your life, then your wife/husband, children, job, etc...everything that is second, submits under His perfect plan). But when God is second in your life, all else will be at unrest).*
 - *First Fruits is another example of this – Give God your best, and He will see that you have overflow in everything you do! (Where is going to church on your list?)*
 - B. **First Works**
 1. Back to the Father. God is not the one that left...He knows who He is!
 2. This is why the world is in shambles and why Jesus spoke so strongly to the church: Yes, the world may be trying to push God out of our schools, out of politics, out of everything altogether...but to the church, we should know better...We know God, but He has been second in our lives!
- II. **Coming to Ourselves**
 - A. The Prodigal Son – **Luke 15:11-20**
 1. Just look at this story and the time we are living in right now!
 2. *How did the son get back to the Father? He finally woke up! (vs. 17)*
 3. *Notice how quickly the father came to the son once he headed the right way!*
 - B. **The Need for Repentance**
 1. A challenging word for challenging times: It’s not the time to hear about God’s love as much as we need to hear, “Repent, Return to His love!”
 2. In order to return, you must first separate like the son-**II Corinthians 6:17-18**
 3. Remember, Ephesus was the first church...do you know what the last church was? Laodicea. If we don’t get the back to the first, then we could end up...not just second...but last!