

Date: April 18, 2021

Title: **The Heartbeat of the Mission**

Scripture Text: **Revelation 2:1-7**

The Bible states that the way we show our love for Jesus is to obey Him ([John 14:23-24](#)). Today's sermon asks the question "Do you love Jesus?". We can do good works for Him without love, but we cannot love Him without good works. Our good works should be motivated by our love for Jesus. Our motivation to love Jesus should come from the love He has shown us ([John 3:16](#)). The issue of the church's love for Jesus is not a new problem. This is what is addressed in today's scripture text in [Revelation 2:1-7](#).

## I. Jesus Commends ([Rev. 2:2-3, 6](#))

In this passage, Jesus commends the Ephesian church for their *Duty* (details are not given, but they were busy doing good works), *Doctrine* (discernment in identifying evil people, and false apostles), and *Determination* (endurance despite intense persecution). If Jesus were to write you a letter, what would He say about your actions in these three areas?

- **Duty**: How do you (how could you) invest in the body?
- **Doctrine**: What do you do to be equipped to know what is true vs. what is false?
  - How would you rank your time in Bible reading, prayer, and Christian fellowship (all great equippers to know the truth!)
- **Determination**: How motivated are you to see your Christian brothers and sisters succeed?
  - What can you do to encourage another this week?

## II. Jesus Confronts ([Rev. 2:4](#))

Why do we serve Jesus? Our motivation can shift over time from our love for Him to obligation (because it is what we are supposed to do). There may be times when we need to pause and evaluate our motives. If we are not being blessed by our service, it could be we have wrong motives and have "left your first love".

- Describe a situation in an interpersonal relationship (husband/wife, best friends, etc.) when the relationship becomes an obligation instead of motivated by love.
- Describe characteristics of a similar relationship with Jesus. What are signs a relationship with Jesus has grown into an obligation.
- How is your relationship with Jesus? Is your love for Him growing each day or are you more motivated because of obligation?

## III. Jesus Corrects ([Rev. 2:5](#))

Jesus tells the Ephesian Christians to rekindle their love for Him by *Remembering* (go back to your salvation experience and remember His love), *Repent* (admit the wrong attitude, straying from Him), and *Repeat* (hunger for His Word, and spending time with Him in prayer).

- **Remember**: Share your salvation testimony. Describe the love of Jesus you experienced then.
- **Repent**: Prayerfully consider any wrong, selfish attitudes that may have hindered your love for Jesus, confess them to Him and repent.
- **Repeat**: What are ways to increase your hunger for God's word and prayer?
  - What are ways you can spend more time reading the Bible and in prayer, seeking Jesus more and more ([1 Chron. 16:11](#))?

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office at [850.878.5503](tel:850.878.5503), [office@morningsidetlh.org](mailto:office@morningsidetlh.org), or complete the [Prayer Request Form](#)