

OUR GOD IS THE ONLY GOD

Mark 12:28-34

Key Verse: 12:29

* LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD (28-30)

1. Read verse 28. What did this teacher of the law hear? What did he think of Jesus' answers to the Pharisees and to the Sadducees? With what kind of attitude did he approach Jesus?
2. What question did he ask Jesus? Did he really want to know the answer to his question? How was he different from the previous questioners?
3. Why was this a good question? What does it show about this young teacher's attitude toward the Bible? About the purity of his heart? (Ps 119:9-11; Ps 1:3)
4. Can you think of any Biblical examples of pure-hearted people? (Lk 1:31,38; Mt 27:54; etc.) Can you think of examples of those who suffered (as Jesus must have) because of the corrupted hearts of people, and received God's comfort (as Jesus did because of this man)? (See 1Ki 18:40; 19:4,18)
5. Read verses 29-30. Where does this command come from? Think about the first part of Jesus' answer. What does it mean that the Lord is one? (Ge 1:1; Isa 40:15; Jn 14:6) What is the hope that only the one true and living God can give us?
6. Read verse 30. Why must we love God as a matter of first importance? Why with "all" the heart, soul, mind and strength? How does obedience to this command preclude idolatry of all kinds, and reveal the only way of blessing? (Ex 20:5)

* LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF (31-34)

7. Read verse 31. What is the second great commandment? How is it related to the first?
8. How does God demonstrate the meaning of real love? (Ro 5:8) Why must we love those who don't seem to deserve our love?
9. Read verses 32-33. How did this young teacher respond to Jesus' answer? What shows that he was joyful? What made him so? What does his answer show about him?
10. Read verse 34. How did Jesus bless this young man? What does his comment mean? How was this man different from Nicodemus in John 3?