

CGH, 9/1/24 “The Greatest Commandment”

- What’s your favorite Commandment? And why?
- For you, which is the most difficult Commandment to keep? Why?

In Matthew 22:35-40 Jesus shares the greatest commandment: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”⁴⁰All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.”

- Of the Ten Commandments, which one does the greatest Commandment remind you of? Why?
- Why does Jesus put so much importance on this Commandment?
- Where do we see this commandment in the Torah?
- In this old testament scripture, what are we to do with these words?
- Would that still be a good practice today?

In verse 10-12 of this old testament chapter God tells us why He wants us to be so diligent in teaching our children.

- Have too many in our country forgotten God?
- Could that have anything to do with why our country is struggling in so very many ways?

There is a second commandment Jesus gives, kind of like the first, in V39:

- Who is your neighbor?
- Is your neighbor always your best friend? Does he mow his grass while you’re trying to sleep in on Saturday morning? Do you love him when the lawnmower passes within 10ft of your bedroom window?
- Is your neighbor the guy who cuts you off in traffic? Do you cuss him or pray for him? Which would be in keeping with this commandment?
- Romans 12:20 has advice: If your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.

Matthew 5:44-48 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁵If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others?

Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect therefore even as your heavenly Father is perfect.

These are all red letters in your Bible if you have that style of Bible, they are words spoken by Jesus, they are words which emphasize the Second Commandment Jesus gave in Matthew 22. Does Jesus expect us to be different from the pagan or the tax collector? Why? When we become followers of Jesus, do we get to pick and choose which words of His we wish to follow?

What if all of this is too much for us? We know we will never keep God's law perfectly no matter how hard we try, what then!

- Matthew 11:28-30
- 1 John 1:8,9
- 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Isaiah 1:18
- Psalm 103:12

Thank God our salvation doesn't depend on us, but rather depends on what God has done for us through Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God!!