



The Greatest Commandment

Near is Not Enough

Mark 12:28-34

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe email address is joe@southreno.com.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Holy Word is printed in regular sized text while Pastor Joe's commentary is in the small text.

You can find this text in your Pew Bible on pages 67.

"It's God's love and grace, not God's law, that has the power to rescue and restore you."

- Paul Tripp



The Ten Commandments Review
God's Original Top Ten



The Ten Commandments have lost their validity. Conscience is an invention of the Jews. It is a blemish like circumcision.

The Commandments cannot be summarized and are, therefore, no more useful than a cut in a private place.

-Adolf Hitler

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Mark 12:28-34, MSG -²⁸ One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question: "Which is most important of all the commandments?"²⁹ Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one;³⁰ so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.'³¹ And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these."³² The religion scholar said, "A wonderful answer, Teacher! So lucid and accurate—that God is one and there is no other."³³ And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself. Why, that's better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!"³⁴ When Jesus realized how insightful he was, he said, "You're almost there, right on the border of God's kingdom." After that, no one else dared ask a question.

1. Love _____ Supremely!

Mark 12:30, GNB -³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

2. Love _____ Genuinely!

Mark 12:31, TLB -³¹ "The second is: 'You must love others as much as yourself.' No other commandments are greater than these."

Life Application Section

The Point: Near is not Enough

"You are not far from the kingdom of God."

- Mark 12:34b

A. The distance of his coming.

B. The danger of his condition.

"It is possible to be within inches of an open door and, yet, never enter in."

Answers to the Sermon

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1. God
2. Others