christian advance archives

# advance in the word – advance in love – 07/17/18

**ADVANCE IN LOVE**

Mark 12:28-34 gives us the Great Commandment from the lips of Jesus. In the discussion with a scribe it becomes clear there is a ranking of commands. The scribe asks Jesus, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" But aren't all the commands important? James tells us in 2:10 that to break one commandment is to break them all. But Jesus seems to be giving a hierarchy to them.
The greatest is to love God with all are heart, soul, mind and strength (right out of Deut. 6:4-5). The 'second' is like it. We are to love our neighbors as our selves. According to the Mark account those two are tops!
If we look at the Matthew account (22:34-40) it gives us a little more insight on the matter. Same story but this time Matthew shares, "...all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." So, all the other commandments are dependent upon or 'hang' on these two! The whole Old Testament (Law and Prophets)!
Now look at Romans 13:8-10. Love shows up again and it (love) "is the fulfillment of the law." Loving our neighbor and loving God (with all) is the doorway to living a life pleasing to God. Galatians 5:13-14 adds, "serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: Love your neighbor as yourself."

\*God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)
\*Through Christ we are renewed into the image of God. (Love)
\*They will know we are Jesus' disciples by our love (John 13:34-35).

Loving God with all and loving my neighbor as I love myself is the fulfillment of all the commandments and the identifiable fingerprint convicting a Christian of being a follower of Christ.

Just as Paul prayed for the Ephesian Christians, we also should pray that God will continue to fill us with His ever-growing love, more and more "until we are filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (see Eph. 5:14-21) (see also Luke 11:1-8).