

**THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT.**

**TEXT: MARK 12: 28-34.**

offerings and sacrifices." He could have been seen as upsetting the temple establishment which he was part of, but he stuck to his guns.

How many people debate with you about your Christian faith? How many stand up for you and agree with you? How many 'good' people you know that would make good Christians who will never come into his kingdom simply because of their self-ingrained beliefs they have which is their stumbling block to an eternal future in the kingdom of heaven?

Jesus' message was so right for this 'scribe' to take Jesus at his word. Those who hear Jesus' message, believe in him, and take him at his word; have a joy instilled into their hearts which they will profess to anyone who

is willing to hear the truths that Jesus has given them. We want to pass it on.

This gospel reading we would have heard many times over during the years we're attended church, but how many of us, are keeping it in our lives as our most important commandment in our lives? If we were to love God with all our hearts, souls and minds, and our neighbors as ourselves, what a difference there would be in the world if others started doing the same thing. God loves you and desires a relationship with you and all who will accept him as the only one true God of their lives.

Just in closing; come what may, if the world was to stop turning right now, would that make a difference to the way we live? Inside of each of us is the hope

that God will keep us in all circumstances, and that in the end even if our lives were to end suddenly, we all know that we will be with him forever because we listened to Jesus' words.

Today we paused for a while and held a remembrance to celebration to remember those who have left us behind on earth, and we were saddened at their passing, but we know these people are now living out the reality of what it is like to be in God's presence forever. This is what we all can expect when our lives are through as long as we have kept the faith, loved God, loved our neighbour as ourselves, and lived a life that is pleasing to God. Amen.

<p>Today in our gospel reading we hear that the Lord our God is one; and that there is no other; which means that in all creation, God stands alone as the Supreme Being and ruler. There is nothing or anything that anyone can compare him to, simply because he has no equal. Yet during the course of our lives, our focus does shift from our Creator to ourselves so that we don't lose track of whom we are and where we fit into, in the great scheme of things. It's our natural behaviour, we do it all the time, whether we're conscious of doing it or not. Lucifer is a great example of egotistical behaviour.</p> <p>There are so many things in life that can take our focus away from God. There are so many things happening all around us, we can lose ourselves in it all, and many people have; in the most unfortunate ways. How</p>	<p>many people get trapped into buying things they don't need? The world isn't so big these days; travel is not the long time adventure it used to be; within twenty four hours, modern aircraft will have you sitting down on the other side of the planet.</p> <p>In the world we live in today; what worries you a lot of the time? What concerns you the most? What keeps you awake late at night or into the early hours of the morning worrying about it? I guess for most of us, it would be our financial security and ability to survive in this day and age where everything is so uncertain and fickle from one day to the next.</p> <p>I remember reading a newspaper item about how long would people last if they lost their livelihoods today; most of them replied they had enough funds from savings and such to last about three months. I make this point because the</p>	<p>world is still in the throes of a worldwide recession, and no one is immune, we all get affected in one way or another.</p> <p>And speaking of the worldwide situation has this recession hit home to you and affected you in one form or another? I say this tongue in cheek, but, for the many millions of people who are nearing retiring age had better think again, they might have to work until they die. They can't afford to retire; their funds savings and superannuation may not be enough to allow them to retire!</p> <p>Perhaps, you may know of someone who has lost their livelihood and income, superannuation, or life savings? You may even know of someone who is about to lose their house and find themselves out on the</p>
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**Christ Church Lutheran**

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

Pastoral Assistant: Edmund 0429041957

Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

streets? And whatever are tough on themselves separated and doing it way you look at it, any of because they feel that tough? The effect from these scenarios are pretty they've let their children this financial crisis fallout scary indeed, in particular down and the wonderful goes right across the if you were thinking dream of a future they spectrum and not only about your financial could have had, and they affects the hip pocket. security and assets to see punish themselves you through these hard because of it. The relationships we tines. Then again you have as human beings may have invested wisely I don't begrudge any one can take a terrible toll, and are doing all right! of doing that. Who not only on individuals doesn't want their but also on communities, children to have a good and entire countries. How isn't doing too badly, but start in life, and not to messed up is this world?

We're told that Australia \_\_\_\_\_ You only have to millions around the \_\_\_\_\_ switch on the news to world have this exact \_\_\_\_\_ hear what is making same trouble I'm \_\_\_\_\_ headlines? The big talking about. The \_\_\_\_\_ thing at the moment effects and spin off \_\_\_\_\_ would be the asylum from people losing \_\_\_\_\_ seekers refugee crisis their life savings and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Sri Lankan retirement funds have \_\_\_\_\_ boat people trying to seek left people more than \_\_\_\_\_ have too many struggles boat people trying to seek struggling; and we along the way? Sure there safety in Australia. At the haven't even touched on are experiences they have moment, Australia what sort of emotional provide abundantly for neither does Malaysia, so effects this has on their them, you sure can make they are on a boat of no families? it a lot easier for them! return drifting around the

## What's your No.1 commandment?

Those people, who \_\_\_\_\_ ocean, or anchored off believe in giving their the time? \_\_\_\_\_ the shores of countries children a good \_\_\_\_\_ who don't want them. education, and have What also happens in saved and struggled for struggling households is What are you like in years in building up a that their marriages can having relationships with nest egg to send their suffer or become family, friends, and children off to higher wrecked, because they whoever? Do you seek education [university, simply don't know what and crave after it, or you etc], now find their to do or how to handle don't care too much financial piggy-banks this current economic about having one? Some busted open. They bear crisis. Perhaps you may people can't stand to be the brunt of failure to know of happily married alone, you know? As you their children, and they couples who are now may be aware, God wants

a relationship with all his God? Good people whom drinking, smoking, creation, his biggest you like to see become yelling, loud music. Kids, desire of all, is a Christians, but that's the clean up your room and relationship with each last thing on their minds. clean up your mess.

and every single one of you. And of all the Remember this; rest How well do we stick to people in the world, he assured that because you being obedient to our desires you most of all! believe and have been rules and This begs the question; baptized that you are commandments? Or as how is your relationship already in God's they say: 'rules made to going with him at the kingdom and that you are be broken,' and they're a child of his. Yet we all hard to enforce in any moment? know of or may have case because you make

In the gospel reading family members and yourself unpopular with today, one of the \_\_\_\_\_ others who live teachers of the law; there? Are you the or 'scribe', comes up sort of person who to Jesus and asks him will take a stand on what he thinks is the your scruples even if most important it may alienate you commandment of all: \_\_\_\_\_ from the rest of your after he observed \_\_\_\_\_ family and friends?

## God desires you for a relationship.

Jesus having a debate friends that are on the with his fellow scribes borderline with their faith This 'scribe' certainly and Pharisees. On and are not quite willing took a stand, because he completion of the to commit at this believed what Jesus was conversation, this 'scribe' particular moment. While the is completely satisfied Pharisees and other with Jesus' answer to So let's explore this, what teachers of the law would which Jesus retorts that is the number one rule in constantly debate and try this man is not far from your home/household? to trip Jesus up, he took the kingdom of God. What is the unwritten an open stand when he

A few things spring to regardless of who comes You are right in saying mind when I look at this into your presence? Dad that God is one and there reading; and one is to ask has his favourite chair, is no other but him. To you, of what is your most don't sit there. Mum runs love him with all your important commandment the kitchen; keep clear heart, with all your of all that you never want unless you want to find understanding and with broken. And also of, how yourself in deep trouble. all your strength, and to many people do you Take your shoes off love your neighbour as know that are not far before you enter the yourself is more from the kingdom of house. No swearing, important than all burnt