

The Second Command

To some extent, we all prioritize things in life. At home, we like to take care of things and all have things we deem more important than others. At work, there are things we all believe to be more important than other duties. At school there are assignments and deadlines that must be met; therefore, we prioritize so that the most important things are done first.

It is no different spiritually. In Matthew 22:34-40 we have an example of one who was attempting to prioritize his life. Sadly, he had the wrong idea and was improperly motivated, as was evidenced by his approach Jesus to “test Him.” The answer he received was apparently not what he was expecting. The first answer was obvious to all who would consider themselves a child of God – “Love God with all your heart, soul and mind.” The second answer presented more of a problem. He was told to love his neighbor as himself.

Loving one’s neighbor has long been a difficult concept. Numerous passages are provided for our use in applying this great truth. The parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:25-37) describes who our neighbor is. Paul’s powerful treatise on love (1 Cor. 13:1-7) describes how we are to love, or in what manner it is to be extended.

May we be those who continue to perform the “second commandment” in an appropriate fashion. Our soul depends upon it and we can influence so many others for good by reaching out to them in prescribed manners.

Sermon Outline: The Christian and His Neighbor (Mt. 22:34-40)

1. “Neighbor” defined (Lk. 10:25-37).
2. What does it mean to love? (1 Cor. 13:1-7)
3. Numerous questions to be considered:
 - A. When should I love my neighbor? (Gal. 6:10; James 4:17; Acts 2:44-45)
 - B. How do I love my neighbor? (Rom. 13:9-10)
 - C. Why should I love my neighbor? (James 2:8-9; Rom. 12:18)

Sunday P.M. – “Haggai”

Haggai

Introduction:

- A. Background – Name possibly derived from being born during Feast of Tabernacles – knowledge is limited to what is revealed here and in the book of Ezra (5:1-2; 6:14-16) – Date: Second year of Darius (520 B.C.)
- B. Timeline of events...review from past lessons

Discussion:

1. Summary of Haggai (Joseph Meador)

- A. Consider your ways – leadership (1:1-6)
- B. Consider your ways – apathy (1:7-15)
- C. Consider your ways – discouragement (2:1-17)
- D. Consider your ways – blessing (2:18-23)

2. Lessons learned from Haggai include...

- A. The need of solid leadership – in this day the work on the temple stopped primarily at the fault of the leadership.
- B. “Consider your ways” – The people were told to examine themselves...how did they compare their actions with that which God demanded of them (Matt. 6:33; Rev. 2:5)?
- C. “A bag with holes” – they had labored for 16 years, but to no avail...were not being blessed...Why?
- D. “I am with you” – 1:13 – four factors resulted in this statement:
 - 1. They obeyed God.
 - 2. They feared God (reverence).
 - 3. They were stirred up to work.
 - 4. They completed the work.
 - 5. Our promise is similar today (Matt. 28:20; 1 Cor. 15:57-58).