

ANSWERING HIS OPPONENTS

Quote:

And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:29-31

Bible Marking - Mark 12

Mark 12:13 - “Pharisees and of the Herodians” - The Pharisees were bitterly opposed to the Herodian policy of conciliating Rome, which placed state policy above religion. However their hatred for Jesus saw them hypocritically join together.

“to catch him in his words” - They planned to use this to deliver him to pilate (Lk 20:20) and discredit him before the people (Lk 20:26).

Mark 12:14 - They failed to understand the relationship between their duty to God and duty to man - see Acts 5:29; 1 Pet 2:13-16; Rom 13:6-7.

Mark 12:16 - “Whose image” - See Gen 1:26 - we are in the image of God.

“Superscription” - We should have the law written on our hearts (Deut 6:6)

Mark 12:17 - “Render” - means ‘to give back’.

Mark 12:19 - Based on Deut 25:5. A provision of the law prevented a family from perishing in Israel, and pointed to the work of our near kinsman (Christ), through whom our inheritance can be assured.

Mark 12:24 - “err” - used of sheep going astray (Matt 18:12). Their false doctrine had caused them to stray in their way of life and live for the present because they did not believe in resurrection.

Mark 12 - Chapter Breakdown

1. Parable of the Householder, Husbandman and Heir - Mark 12:1-12 (see Matt 21:33-46; Lk 20:9-19).
2. Worldly minded Herodians Silenced - Mark 12:13-17 (see Matt 22:15-22; Lk 20:20-26).
3. Infidel Sadducees Silenced on Resurrection - Mark 12:18-27 (see Matt 22:23-33; Lk 20:27-38).
4. Self righteous Pharisees Silenced regarding the Great Commandment - Mark 12:28-34 (see Matt 22:34-40; Lk 20:39-40).
5. Jesus’ unanswered question - “Whose son is Christ?” - Mark 12:35-37 (see Matt 22:41-46; Lk 20:41-44).
6. Jesus Warns against the Scribes - Mark 12:38-40 (see Lk 20:45-47).
7. The Widow’s Liberality - Mark 12:41-44 (see Lk 21:1-4).

“Ye know not the scriptures” - they

rejected all but the 5 books of Moses. The Scriptures clearly taught the resurrection (**Psa 71:20; Isa 26:19; Dan 12:2**).

“Neither the power of God” - See these key uses:

- The Gospel is the Power of God unto salvation (**Rom 1:16**).
- The Cross of Christ is the power of God to those being saved (**1 Cor 1:18**).
- Christ is the power of God (ie the means to the accomplishment of this great hope - **1 Cor 1:24**).
- Christ’s resurrection to life was through the power of God (**2 Cor 13:4**).

Mark 12:25 - **“neither marry, nor are given in marriage”** - ie because the purpose of God in marriage of multiplying and subduing the earth (**Gen 1:26-27**) and producing a godly seed (**Mal 2:15; Ezra 9:2**) will have been fulfilled as far as the saints are concerned.

“As the angels in heaven” - see **Lk 20:36** - **“equal unto the angels”** (**Lk 20:36**) - possessing spirit- bodies (**1 Cor 15:44,50; 2 Pet 1:4**). Just as the angels have tangible bodies as demonstrated by their appearances in Genesis (**Gen 18:1-2,22; 32:24-30** cp **Hos 12:3-4**), so also will the immortal saints. The Sadducees failed to see this.

Mark 12:27 - see **Rom 4:17**.

Mark 12:28 - **“one of the scribes”** - **Matt 22:34-35** describes him as a “lawyer” from among the Pharisees. These were lovers of themselves, proud, haughty, self righteous (**Jn 7:49; Lk 18:10-12**).

“Which is the first commandment of all” - This was the subject of much debate among the Pharisees. They had defined 613 different precepts, with 248 positive and 365 negative clauses

Mark 12:30 - Colour the word “all” **YELLOW** (occurs 4 times).

“Love” - Gk agape - a deliberate choice to feel and act in the best interests of another. See **Rom 13:9**.

The Sadducees

Their name is derived from “Zadok”, meaning “The Just One”. Seems to have been founded by a Zadok around 260 BC. They placed political expediency above religious probity. Because of this, they had been removed from office when the Maccabees came to power, and from thence, afterwards, turned more completely to politics in order to regain their influence. By political intrigue, members of it had secured the high priesthood (**Acts 5:17**).

Sadducees denied the resurrection (**Matt 22:23; Mk 12:18; Lk 20:27; Acts 23:8**), and rejected any notion of angels, or divine messengers, or the existence of spirit beings (**Heb 1:7**) and repudiated any divine interposition or providence in human affairs. Therefore they asserted that men were absolute masters of their own actions, and at full liberty to do either good or evil. This led to gross profligacy and licentiousness. The Sadducees were known for their luxurious and dissolute living.

They rejected the authority of all Scripture except the Pentateuch (the first five books of Moses). They believed in the coming of Messiah, but taught that he would be a temporal prince to set up universal rule, and free Jewry from the yoke of foreign bondage.