

03/01/2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL Section Review

Enduring Beliefs of the Christian Faith

The Church and Its Teaching

- **2/1: MARK 4:26-32; EPHESIANS 4:4-6; 11-18**

The lesson deals with how the Church was planted and grows through the Gospel, and how its members are cultivated into the image of Christ

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- **2/8: Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20;
1 Corinthians 11:23-29**

Baptism and The Lord's Supper are important and meaningful acts of worship in the Church, but can lead to division/strife when not done correctly

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The Church and Its Teaching

- **2/15: Exodus 20:8-11; Romans 14:4-6; Revelation 1:10**

The Lord's Day is a time for rest and reflection, but the day changed from OT to NT. There is however no set day that we are bound to, but we should use it to honor the Lord.

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The Church and Its Teaching

▪ 2/22: Acts 1:6-8; 2 Corinthians 8:3 – 9

The Church is encouraged to give liberally to those in need – especially churches and not to worry about end times or Christ's return, but to work in the Kingdom, focusing on charity and sacrifice as Jesus modeled.

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ
03/01/2026

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

Enduring Beliefs of the Christian Faith

The Church and Its Teaching

Recognizing Our Debt to
Others

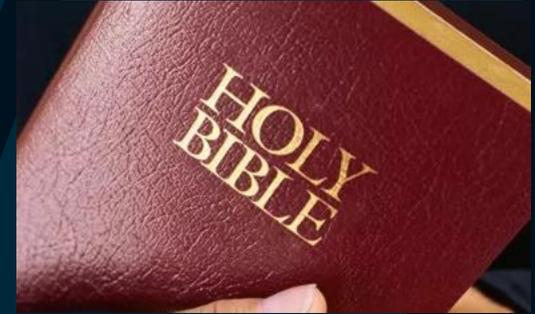
Mark 12:28 – 34;

James 2:14 – 17

*Anchor Text

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 (NIV)

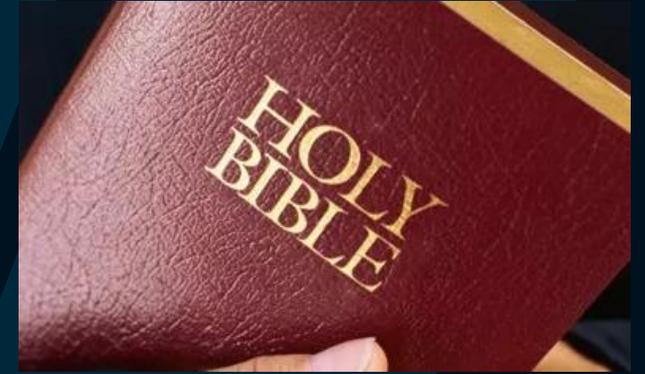
¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,



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Lesson Text

The Scribes: Which Is the
First Commandment of All?



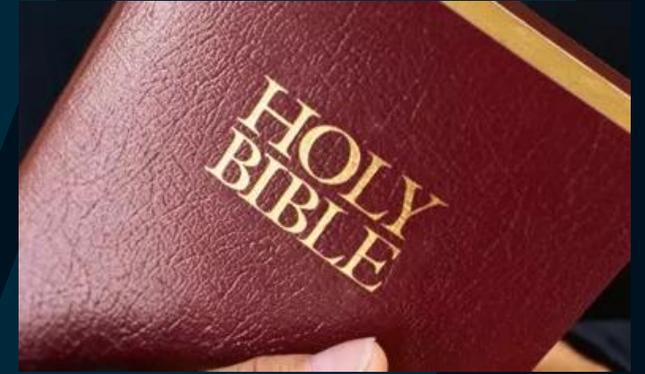
MARK 12:28 (NKJV)

28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, ^[a]perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the ^[b]first commandment of all?"

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Lesson Text

The Scribes: Which Is the
First Commandment of All?



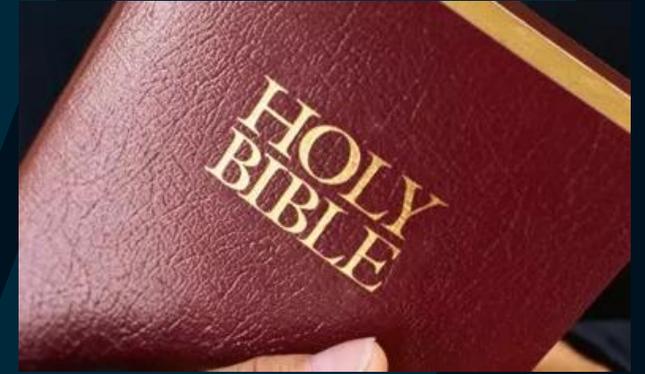
MARK 12:29 (NKJV)

29 Jesus answered him, "The [c]first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

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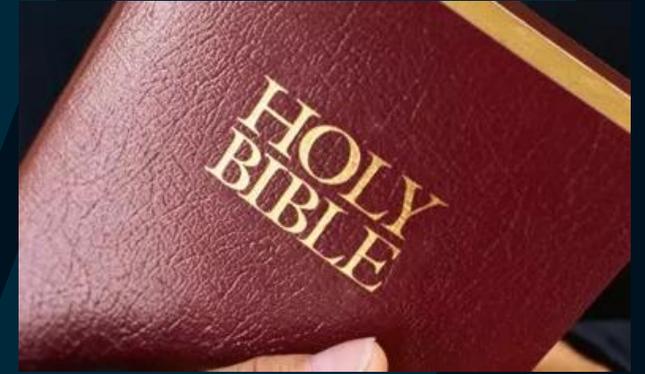
MARK 12:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' [d] This is the first commandment.

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Lesson Text

The Scribes: Which Is the
First Commandment of All?



MARK 12:31 (NKJV)

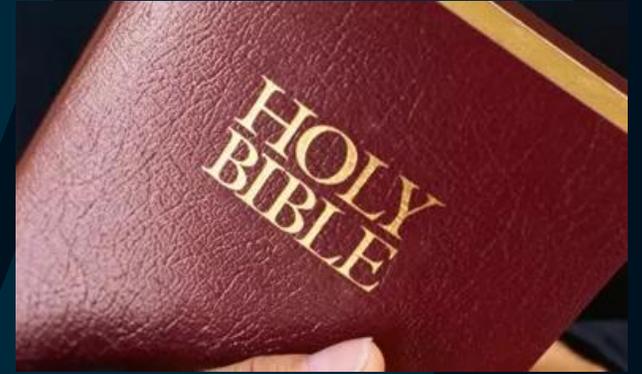
³¹ And the second, like it, is this:
'You shall love your neighbor as
yourself.' There is no other
commandment greater than these."

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Reference Text

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5 (NKJV)

4 "Hear, O Israel: [a]The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

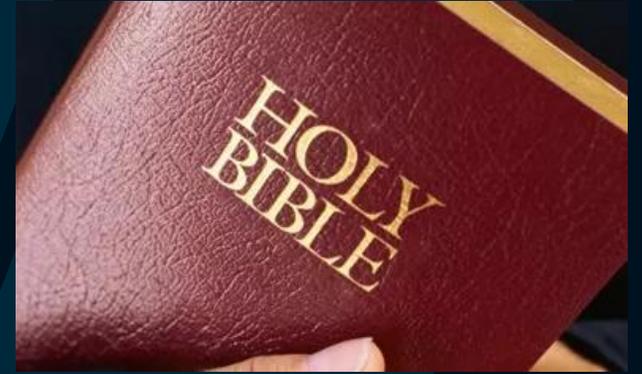


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Reference Text

LEVITICUS 19:18 (NKJV)

18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.



My Guiding Principles of Biblical Interpretation

- If there's an "apparent" contradiction between OT and NT texts... **CHOOSE NT perspective:**
- Where there is **consistency**, the Scripture is universally applicable

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Commentary: Nothing New

- Approximately 1,200 to 1,500 years passed between the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses (c. 1400–1200 BC) and the writing of the Gospels (c. 60–90 AD), with 400 years between the last book of the OT – **Malachi** and the birth of Christ

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Commentary: Nothing New

- Yet the spirit of what God wanted and what the Jews in the NT taught were vastly different.
- Rather than focusing on the greatest commandments, it became about enforcement of religious practices and a lust for power and control

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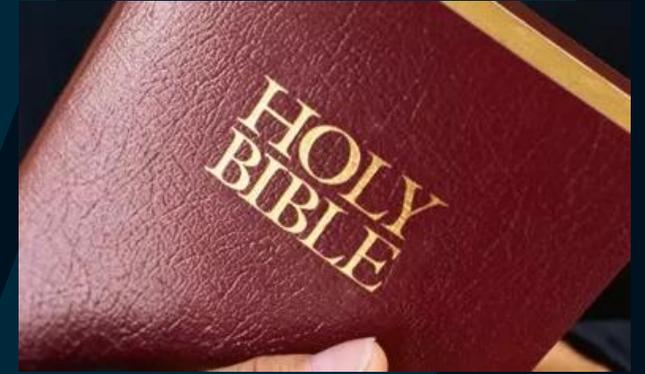
Commentary: Nothing New

- There was nothing new about what Jesus said. He was reminding the teachers and scribes of what was commanded long ago.
- Jesus also confirmed that He was not here to abolish the **moral** law, but to fulfill it (**Matthew 5:17-18**)

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Lesson Text

The Scribes: Which Is the
First Commandment of All?



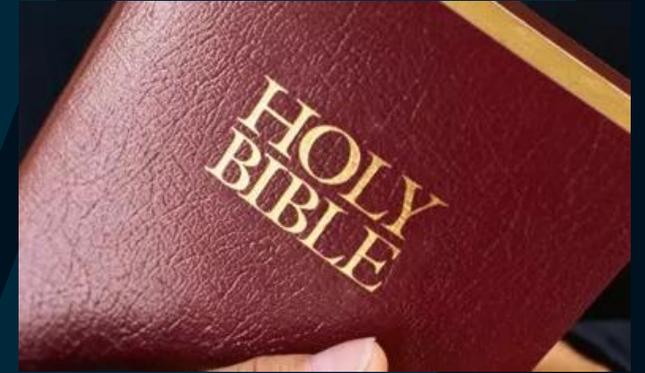
MARK 12:32 (NKJV)

³² So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He."

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Lesson Text

The Scribes: Which Is the
First Commandment of All?



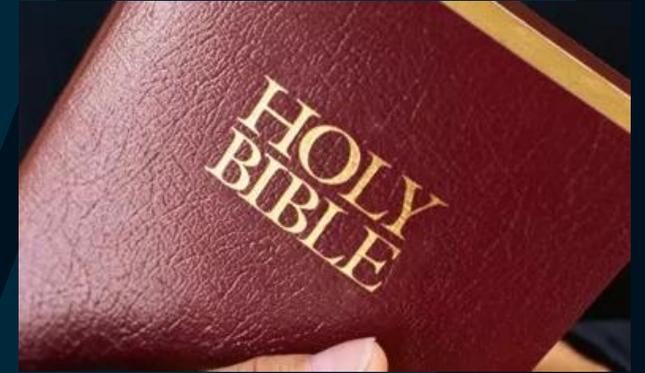
MARK 12:33 (NKJV)

³³ And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, [e]with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

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Lesson Text

The Scribes: Which Is the
First Commandment of All?



MARK 12:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question Him.

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Commentary: Knowing vs Doing

- The teacher confirmed what Jesus was saying, but we must ask then WHY was this lost in the PRACTICE of the teachers, scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees of that day?
- It's good to KNOW the Scriptures, but DOING them is more important

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Commentary: Knowing vs Doing

- When Jesus says that the teacher is not far from the Kingdom, He's saying that he knows WHAT to do, but to enter the Kingdom, we must DO them.
- Even Satan knows the Scriptures, but clearly he doesn't do them (**Matthew 4; Luke 4**)

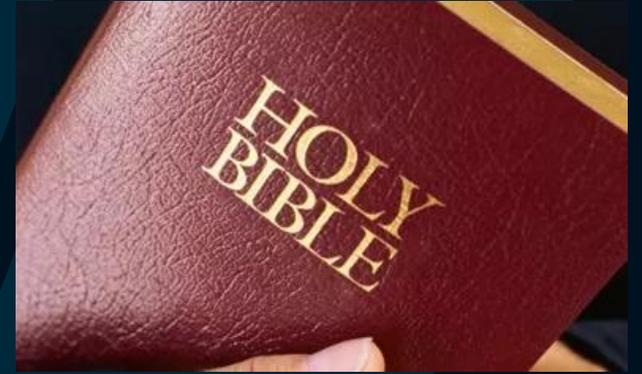
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Lesson Text

Faith Without
Works is Dead

JAMES 2:14 – 15 (NKJV)

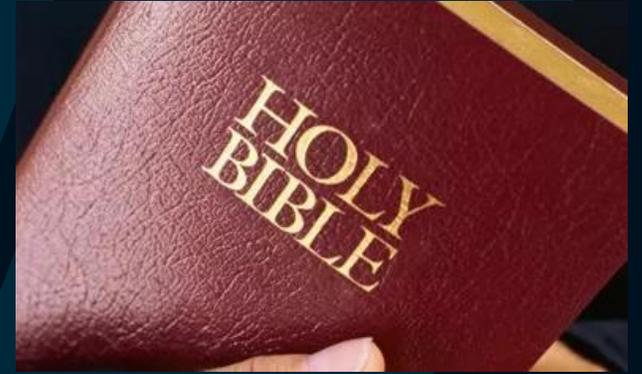
14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,



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Lesson Text

Faith Without
Works is Dead



JAMES 2:16 – 17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” **but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?** ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

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Commentary: In Conclusion

- This month, we've studied the Church – how the Church is grown, its mission and purpose.
- It is to save souls by the preaching of the Gospel
- It is to conform its members into the image and attitude of Jesus Christ

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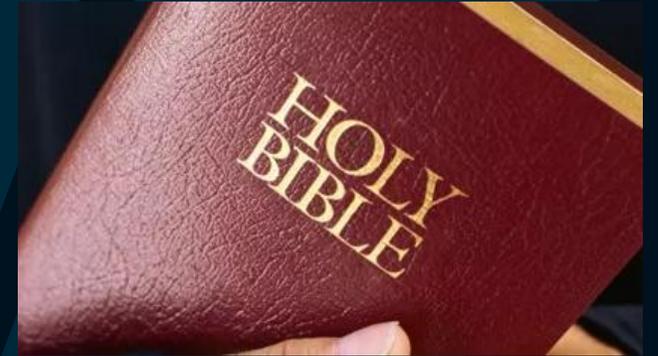
Commentary: In Conclusion

- And it is to DO the work of God:
 - To love people
 - To render aid and resources to those in need – both members and non-members
 - To be salt and light in a world of darkness
 - To give people hope for a brighter future
- It is NOT to gain power by force nor prestige by its own standards

Scripture References

James 1:27

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."



Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

03/01/2026

Church School Creed

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a Christian
Every Christian a worker
Every worker trained
A worker that will not be ashamed
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ

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Church School Benediction

We have come

We have studied

We have learned

So until our next coming together

To study God's word

May His rich blessings reside with you

And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN