

**Scripture: Matthew 22:34-40, Matthew 7:12**

### Introduction

- Last week we discussed **The Pursuit of Righteousness**.
- As believers we should run after righteousness every day of our life. That is being “right” with God.
- We read a couple of lists in the Bible that detailed some things to do and not to do.
- This morning we will look at **Applying the Bible for Dummies**.
- Many people look at the Bible and are intimidated by how big a book it is and the complexity of what it says
- There are so many things it tells us to do and not to do, that it is often hard for people to grasp it all.
- We will condense the entire Bible down to two principles Jesus taught us to live by.

### Matthew 22:34-40

<sup>34</sup>Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. <sup>35</sup>One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

- Jesus had been answering questions from religious leaders on various topics.
- V. 34 tells us that after Jesus silenced one group of leaders, another group “got together.”
- V. 35-36 – “...an expert in the law” asked Jesus in v. 36, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”
  - The religious leaders were continuously trying to trap Jesus by their questions.
- V. 37 – Jesus simply replied with:
  - **#1 - “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”**
    - This is the first principle that we should live by if we are looking to apply the Bible to our lives. Jesus was quoting **Deuteronomy 6:5** here.
    - Jesus went to great lengths in this verse to help us to understand exactly what he meant.
    - We are to love God with every part of our being.
- V.38 – Jesus identifies this as “the first and greatest commandment.” So that answered the man’s question.
- V.39 – He goes on in this verse and expands His answer to the second greatest commandment:
  - **# 2 – “Love your neighbor as yourself.”**
  - In this verse he is quoting **Leviticus 19:18**.
  - It is not typical for someone to hate themselves or to treat themselves poorly.
  - Jesus gives this simple command to love others in the same way we love ourselves.
- V. 40 – This really is the most interesting verse of the whole passage.
  - Jesus says, “All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”
  - This is not the first time that Jesus has made a statement like this...

### Matthew 7:12

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

- What we have in this verse is commonly referred to as the Golden Rule.
- It is another way of looking at the second great commandment.
- We also see that Jesus states that this teaching too, “sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

- Basically, what we have is Jesus giving us simply 2 commands to live by.
  1. **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”**
  2. **“Love your neighbor as yourself” and “do to [them] what you would have them do to you.”**
- He emphatically says that these two principles “sum up” what the Bible teaches us.
- The “Law and the Prophets” was the way of saying the entirety of the Old Testament Scriptures.
- **When you are seeking to apply the Bible to your life, do not get overwhelmed.**
- It never has been about every little action that we do or do not do, it is all about the state of our heart.
- If we follow these two Great Commandments, we will just naturally live according to what the rest of the Bible says.
- When there is a Bible principle that we just cannot quite understand how to apply it specifically to our lives, always revert back to these two commandments and make sure you are in right standing with them.
- If so, you are good.
- **Do you love God and serve Him with all of your being? If you said yes, does your life reflect that?**
- **Do you love your “neighbor” as yourself and treat others in the way you like to be treated? If you said yes, would your “neighbors” agree?**
- If you answered no to these two questions, what steps are you taking to get on the right track?

**\*\*Challenge for the Week\*\***

Examine yourself throughout the week and ask, “Am I fully fulfilling the 2 Great Commandments?”

## **Wednesday Night Bible Study**

### **Study of the Book of Romans**

Romans 1:16-17