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Reading - Mark ch 12 v 28-37

“By what authority do you teach these things?”

This was the question asked by the Pharisees. The Lord silenced them by challenging them about their belief that John the Baptist was sent by God as the forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Is it right to pay tribute to Cesar?”

This was the question asked by the politicians of the day. They forgot they were dealing with the son of God. He could answer all questions. The foolishness of man is wiser than men and the weakness of man is stronger than men.

“Is it possible for someone to be raised from the dead?”

The question asked by the Sadducees. They didn't believe in the resurrection - it defies human logic.

“What is the greatest commandment?”

We can have a form of religion and a set of principles but these may not be guided by the spirit of God.

We are not here to teach a gospel of works or of faith mixed with Judaism. What is being demonstrated is that God's standard is high. If we want to get to heaven by being good and keeping to the laws of God - the standard is too high.

Man's duty Godward = “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...”

To love God means we have to obey God. Not one of us could claim to have obeyed God.

Man's duty manward = “Love thy neighbour as thyself”

There is always a bit of selfishness within us which makes it difficult to love others as ourselves.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the one and only God. There is only one God.

All the works, sacrifices and gifts that man can bring can't take away sin and satisfy God's standard.

If we could have kept the law there would have been no need for Christ to come.

“There is therefore no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8:1)

The Lord Jesus can keep you.

We in our own strength and righteousness are outside the Kingdom.

The Lord Jesus has come and died on the cross. The Lord Jesus has made up the deficit and has paid our debt.

The Lord has done at Calvary's cross what we cannot do by keeping laws and standards.

“God sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh” (Rom 8:3)

The Lord Jesus came to die on the cross. God laid the punishment of our sin upon Him and made Him an offering for sin.

“God made to meet upon Him the iniquity of us all” (Isa 53:6).

The throne, manger, the law keeping could not save He had to make Himself the sacrifice on the cross.

“This same Jesus whom ye have crucified” (Acts 2:36)

For our salvation we need to come and acknowledge our sin. When He died on the cross - the punishment for our sin is death. Christ death is recognised as your death. It was like you were nailed to the cross.

You must confess your sin, believe that the Lord died for your sin on the cross. You have to make Him Lord of your life and hand over control of your life to the Lord. Ask Him to take your sins away. Ask Him to be your Saviour and Lord.

“He is Lord of all” (Acts 10:36)

Is He your Lord? Is He your Saviour? Is He the one you trust for eternity?

Tonight you can be saved if you put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.