

SABBATH, November 8.—**LESSON VI.—The Two Commandments.**—Mark xii. 28-34.

Leader. 28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

School. 29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

L. 30 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.

S. 31 And the second is like, namely, this, Thou

shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

L. 32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none but he:

S. 33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

L. 34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.

S. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

TOPIC—Not Far from the Kingdom of God.

Golden Text—Love is the fulfilling of the Law.
Rom. xiii. 10.

Home Readings.

M. Mark xii. 28-34.

Tu. Jer. x. 10-16.

W. James ii. 8-17.

Th. Isa. l. 11-17.

F. Rom. xiii. 7-14.

S. 1 John iii. 10-18.

S. 1 John iv. 4-12.

OUTLINE.

I. THE SCRIBE'S QUESTION, v. 28; Matt. v. 19; Luke xi. 42.

II. THE SAVIOUR'S ANSWER, vs. 29-31; Deut. x. 12; xxx. 6; Matt. vii. 12; Luke x. 27; Gal. v. 14; 1 Tim. i. 5.

III. THE SCRIBE'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT, vs. 32, 33; Deut. iv. 30; vi. 4; 1 Sam. xv. 22; Prov. xxi. 3; Isa. xlii. 8; Micah vi. 6-8.

IV. THE SAVIOUR'S APPROVAL, v. 34; Rom. iii. 19; Col. iv. 6; Titus i. 9-11.

QUESTIONS, etc.—How many commandments were given by God to Moses?

What does the Topic teach concerning those who observe the spirit of these commandments?

What are we taught in the GOLDEN TEXT?

1. *The Scribe's Question.*—What is a scribe?

Of whom did he ask the question?

What question did he ask?

Why did he ask it? Matt. xxii. 34.

What is the meaning of "tempt" here?

[Ans. Testing, examining.]

With whom had Jesus been "reasoning"? v. 18.

2. *The Saviour's Answer.*—Where is the first part of the Saviour's answer found? Deut. vi. 4.

What does Jesus give as the first commandment?

How many of the commandments given to Moses are included in this?

Why is it called the first commandment?

[Ans. It is the commandment, which, if kept, will help us to keep all the rest. John xiv. 15.]

Do you love God with all your heart?

What is given as the second commandment? v. 31.

How many of the ten commandments does this include?

What does the "golden rule" teach? Matt. vii. 12.

Can we truly love God and neglect our neighbour? 1 John iii. 17.

3. *The Scribe's Acknowledgment.*—What did the scribe acknowledge?

Could there be true sacrifice and offering to God without the keeping of these commandments?

4. *The Saviour's Approval.*—What answer did Jesus make to the scribe?

What is the meaning of "discreetly"?

In what way was the "scribe" not far from the kingdom?

[Ans. In understanding the spirit of God's love, he was prepared for its reception in his heart.]

Will merely understanding the law save you?

Are you keeping the commandments?

Where, from this lesson are we taught,—

1. That to find the truth we must seek it in Jesus?

2. That there is no true obedience without love?

3. That "to obey is better than sacrifice"?

4. That God's service requires a complete surrender to him.

5. That honest inquiry will bring us to the light?

HYMN.—Tune, "Peterboro'."—C.M.

With love the Saviour's heart overflowed;

Love spoke in every breath;

Supreme it reigned throughout his life,

And triumphed in his death.

Behold, this new command he gives

To those who bear his name,—

That they shall one another love,

As he hath loved them.

In every action, every thought,

Be this great law fulfilled;

Forgotten be each selfish aim,

Each angry passion stilled.

Let all who bear the name of Christ,

While they his sufferings view,

Think of his words, "Each other love,

As I have loved you."

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

8. *What do you chiefly learn by these Commandments?*

By these commandments I chiefly learn two things; my duty towards God, and my duty towards my neighbour.

9. *What is your duty towards God?*

My duty towards God is to believe in him, to fear him, and to love him with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength; to worship him, to give him thanks, to put my whole trust in him, to call upon him, to honor his holy name, his Sabbath, and his word, and to serve him truly all the days of my life.