

I. Introduction.II. A most significant question is raised. v. 25-26

- A. The lawyer asks Jesus how one can inherit eternal life. v. 25b 7:30 11:45,46,52 18:18
 - 1. People today should take more interest in this question. 12:19 Heb. 9:27 1 Co. 15:32
 - 2. The lawyer is asking the right man – Jesus came into the world to give eternal life to His people. John 3:15-16,36 6:54,68 10:27-28 17:3
- B. While the lawyer’s question is profound, his motives are bad. v. 25a,29
 - 1. He is putting Jesus to the test. 4:12 11:16 Dt. 6:16 1 Co. 10:9 Mark 10:2 12:15 8:11
 - 2. He is self-righteous – believing that he can do something to justify himself. v. 25b,29
- C. Jesus answers the question with a question – “What is written?” v. 26 20:44 24:27
 - 4:4,8,10,17 18:31 20:17 22:37 24:27 John 5:39 Mt. 5:18-19 15:2 2 Tim. 3:16f Eph. 6:17

III. A correct answer is given. v. 27

- A. The lawyer answers accurately. Deut. 6:5 Lev. 19:18 Mark 12:28-34 Mt. 22:35-40
- B. These two commandments are a definitive summary of God’s Law. Rom. 13:9 Js. 2:8
 - 1. The first summarizes the first four commandments. Ex. 20:3-11
 - 2. The second summarizes the final six commandments. Ex. 20:12-17 Gal. 5:14
- C. The greatest commandment is that you love God with all of your being. v. 37a
 - Deut. 6:5 4:29 10:12 11:13 13:3 26:16 30:2,6,10
 - 1. No compartment of your life or personality can be held back. 9:23 Ps. 42:1
 - 2. God does not merely require an external conformity to His commandments, but a deep inward personal love for and delight in Him.
 - 3. God does not merely require that we avoid the commission of certain heinous sins, but that we positively fulfill all of our duties to Him.
 - 4. It is idolatry (adulterous) to put any other love ahead of love for God. Rom. 1:23
 - a. Self love. 2 Tim. 3:2 1 Tim. 4:8
 - b. Love of pleasure. 2 Tim. 3:4 Phil. 3:19 John 3:19
 - c. Love of material things. 12:13 16:13 18:22f Mt. 6:24
 - d. Love of the world. Js. 4:4 1 Jo. 2:15
 - e. Love of approval. 11:43 John 12:43 Pr. 29:25
 - f. Love of humanity (philanthropy).
 - g. Love of nature (the planet). Rom. 1:23,25
 - h. Love of family (and romantic love). 14:26
 - 5. God is worthy of your love. Rom. 11:33ff 1 Jo. 4:19 1 Pe. 1:8 Isa. 55:1-2
- D. Love of neighbor is the second greatest commandment. v. 37b
 - 1. The command is also positive – not merely to avoid killing, lying and stealing, but positively to show love. 10:30-37
 - 2. This command is also both inward and outward. 1 Jo. 3:18
 - 3. Do you perfectly, selflessly and sacrificially put others first both outwardly through your actions and inwardly in your heart? Phil. 2:3-5
 - 4. Are you completely forgiving, not only refusing to retaliate, but never even desiring revenge? Eph. 4:31-32 Rom. 12:18ff
 - 5. This commandment is tied to the first – our love for others flows from His love for us and our love for Him. 1 Jo. 4:19-21,8,10-12 3:14-18 Eph. 3:14-21
 - 6. There is no biblical command to love yourself. Eph. 5:28-29 2 Tim. 3:2

IV. How are we to interpret Jesus' response – Do this and live? v. 28-29

- A. It is true that anyone who perfectly keeps these two commandments will live – inherit eternal life. 18:13 Lev. 18:5 Deut. 6:18,24-25 Ezek. 20:11 Ro. 10:5 Neh. 9:29 Ga. 3:12
- B. The lawyer, like other Jewish leaders, blindly believes that he is able to justify himself. v. 29 10:21 18:9-14,18-27 Rom. 10:2-3 Mt. 7:21-23 Js. 2:10
- C. God's Law shows us that we cannot meet God's standard, which then drives us to the gospel of Christ – the second use of the Law.
1. There is nothing wrong with the Law. The problem is with us. Ro. 7:12 Eph. 2:3 4:18
 2. None of us can be saved by keeping the law. Rom. 3:20 Gal. 2:16 3:10
 3. Rightly understood, the Law reveals our sinfulness – like a mirror. Gal. 3:24
 4. The Law, properly understood, leads us to repent of sin, including self-justification, and to put our faith in Jesus Who offers eternal life to sinners. Phil. 3:8-9 Rom. 8:3-4
 5. God's Law must be faithfully proclaimed without compromise.
- D. God's way of giving the inheritance of eternal life through Christ is not contrary to the Law, but rather it perfectly fulfills the law. Mt. 5:17-20 Rom. 10:4ff 8:3-4 Gal. 3:21-22
1. The Law's penalty has been fully paid. 1 Pet. 3:18 2 Co. 5:21 Gal. 3:10-14
 2. The Law's precepts have been perfectly kept, thus meriting the inheritance of eternal life. Instead of us "doing", someone else has done it for us. Phil. 3:9 2 Co. 8:9
 3. We inherit eternal life solely by grace through faith, apart from any Law-works of our own. Eph. 2:8f 1:14 3:5 Rom. 5:1 Phil. 3:9 John 3:16 Rom. 8:17 5:21 3:20ff Acts 13:48 1 Tim. 1:15-16 Titus 1:2 3:5 1 Jo. 1:2 2:25 5:11,13,20
 4. It is only through Jesus that we can draw near to God. 10:22 John 14:6
- E. God's Law also shows us how God wants those who have inherited eternal life to live now – the third use of the Law.
1. Law-keeping contributes absolutely nothing to our justification. Rom. 3:20
 2. But Law-keeping is important, and in a sense necessary, for justified people. v. 37 Eph. 2:10 Js. 1:22 John 8:11 14:15 13:17 Deut. 10:12
 3. Christ has renewed your heart, your soul, your mind and your strength so that you are now able to keep God's Law. 2 Co. 5:17 Heb. 8:10 10:16 Jer. 31:34 Col. 1:21-22
 4. Those who have inherited eternal life love God and yearn to please Him. John 14:15 1 Pet. 1:8-9 Js. 2:5 1:12
 5. How can we grow in love for God? Eph. 3:14-21 1 Co. 11:24 John 14:15

V. Concluding applications. Acts 16:30-34 Eph. 6:24

Discussion questions

1. How does this passage relate to the preceding context?
2. What is good about the lawyer's question?
3. What is wrong with his question?
4. What is good about the lawyer's answer?
5. What is wrong with the lawyer's understanding of God's Law?
6. What is the true meaning of the greatest commandment?
7. What is the most important function of God's Law?
8. Should Christians be exhorted to fulfill the duties of God's commandments?

Explain your answer. Why would anyone say that we shouldn't be exhorted this way?

9. How should God's Law be preached in our churches?
10. How does Jesus fulfill God's Law and enable us to fulfill God's Law?