

# *Trinity Bible Church*

*The Carpenter's House*

**December 20, 2020**

## **Four Divine Institutions Authority and Freedom**

### Announcements:

Sunday      Dec 20      Deacons' Meeting.  
Sunday      Dec 20      The Lord's Table.

\*\* Our annual "membership drive" is underway. The reason is that our Annual Business Meeting will take place after the first of the year, probably in February. Date has not been set but we are beginning to prepare for it. Constitutions and Membership Applications are on the back table.

\*\* Remember that all classes can be viewed through our website: [tbcokc.org/resources](http://tbcokc.org/resources)

\*\* Podcasts are available. Go to: [tbcokc.org](http://tbcokc.org) then the "Resources" tab. It is a great blessing to see people listening to them. The numbers have been increasing. May our Lord continue to spread His Word.

	November	Total 2020	General Fund	Building Fund	Missions 2020
Income	\$ 6,050.00	\$ 75,325.61		\$ 45,751.02	\$4,725.00
Expenses	6,476.55	78,377.50		Missions Bal	7,750.00
Balance	\$ -426.55	\$ -3,051.89	\$18,071.12	\$7,996.95	\$-3,025.00

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**The Lord's Table**

**The Olivet Discourse**

**The Greatest Commandments**

## Gene and Dawn Whitehurst (VMI)

Some believers are going through a very hard 2020... [Read Mark 4:35-41](#)

Jesus told His disciples to get into the boat with Him and cross then over to the other side. Jesus knew full well that a great storm was going to interrupt them. In fact, He may have arranged that storm. When this ferocious storm hit, the disciples thought they were going to suffer shipwreck and drown. They woke Jesus and asked Him, "Do You not care that we are perishing?"

How do we feel when the storms of life hit us? We may ask why did God allow this storm? He knows how terrified and troubled I become. And we want to say, "Do You not care that we are perishing?" We may groan a quiet prayer... "Lord I can't deal with this. This trial is too severe for me. I'm dying here!" And it seems as though there is no response. Sometimes the trial goes on for years...sometimes we discover that a trial seems to have no end. Our shoulders slump and we feel hopeless.

We want to ask God, "Why this? Why now? Why me?" But we have been believers long enough to know that He is not obligated to explain His actions. He is not obliged to explain why this happened to you. He expects us to live by faith and not by explanations or understanding (Prov 3:5-6). We cannot see the big picture of all of what God is doing – much less how our difficulty fits into God's plan.

And some believers of yesteryear have suffered much more than we...

*"Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth." (Heb 11:35-38)*

Don't stop there...the next verse says, "And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith..."

We so wonder how these early believers endured such. Their life of faith seems to be far beyond what I am and what I ever hope to be. Let me say that these believers were not necessarily super stars of Christ. They were every day believers sustained by God. It was not about them. It was about God! He will provide more than sufficient grace. Likewise, it is not about you and your strengths or weaknesses. It is always about God and His grace!

*"And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Cor 12:9-10)*

The author said that he takes pleasure in such suffering...because more suffering means more of God's grace will be generously poured out on him. Wow!

My grace is sufficient for you! He said it. Believe it. Look to Him for that grace and not what you do. God's grace lessens the grip of the trial. Keep praying. Call out for more grace. Call out for Him.

Tell Him bluntly, "I need Your grace."

I Pet 5:7 "casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you."

Gene Whitehurst

## **The Divine Institutions:**

- 1. The List:**
- 2. Volition: Merriam-Webster Definition:**
- 3. The establishment of three categories of volition:**
- 4. Biblical evidence for volition.**
- 5. Volition will be tested. Gen 2:15-17**
- 6. Volition and the Will of God.**
  - E. Volition, Human Freedom and Sin.**
  - F. Authority**
    - 1. Authority refers to a claim of legitimacy, justification and right to exercise power to achieve a desired end.**
      - a. A right means that authority is not to usurp that area.**
      - b. A privilege is something that an authority gives.**
    - 2. Spheres of Authority: A Sphere of Authority is determined by where the responsibility lies. Each Sphere of Authority has a purpose.**
      - a. The Father to the Son, Jesus Christ. Matt 28:18**  
**Purpose: So all has the opportunity to be saved. 1 Tim 2:1-4**
      - b. God to the individual. 2 Cor 5:10**  
**Purpose: To make the individual accountable.**
      - c. God to families. Eph 5:22-6:1**  
**Purpose: To display love and grace.**
      - d. God to the church. Eph 4:1**  
**Purpose: To equip the saints. Eph 4:12-16; 2 Cor 10:8**
      - e. God to governments. Rom 13:1-7**
        - 1. Military. Purpose: To protect the nation.**
        - 2. Civilian. Purpose: To serve the nation.**
      - f. God to Social Institutions:**
        - 1. Business. Col 3:22**  
**Purpose: To produce goods and services for the physical needs of the citizens.**
        - 2. Academics. Heb 5:12**  
**Purpose: To educate people about God's plan.**
        - 3. Athletics. 1 Cor 9:24-27**  
**Purpose: To teach about spiritual competition.**

**B. The Olivet Discourse.**

1. **A Marriage Puzzle. Matt 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40  
Luke 20:27-40**
2. **The Greatest Commandment. Matt 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34**

**Matt 22:34-40**

**Matt 22:34 = Next Team Up.**

But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.

**Summary:**

1. **Frequently, one form of evil hands off to another form.**
2. **The Theological Liberals got silenced, so now the Fundamentalist Legalists take over in the attack on Messiah.**
3. **One group tended to “take away” from God’s commands while the other tended to “add to” them. Deut 4:1-3; 12:28-32**

**Matt 22:35 = Next Test. (Mark 12:28a)**

One of them, a lawyer (**NOMIKOS**), asked Him a question, testing (**PEIRADZW**) Him,

**Mark 12:28a** One of the scribes (**GRAMMATEUS**) came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him,

**Summary:**

1. **Jesus had been “tested” by the “best,” Satan himself. Matt 4:1**
2. **Pharisees had tested Him by asking for signs. Matt 16:1**
3. **They had tested Him on the question of divorce. Matt 19:3**
4. **They had tested Him over the issue of taxes. Matt 22:18**
5. **Now they are going to test Him with a question for which they had no answer.**

**Matt 22:36 = An Important Question. (Mark 12:28b)**

"Teacher, which is the great (**MEGAL8**) commandment in the Law?"

**Mark 12:28b** "What commandment is the foremost of all?"

**Summary:**

1. **The question asked which commandment had the most far reaching consequences.**
2. **It also desired to know the one from which all others would relate.  
Mark 12:28b**
3. **It is a question that seeks both a vertical and horizontal answer, namely greatest in the eyes of God and man.**

**Matt 22:37 = The Answer. (Mark 12:29-30)**

And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE (**2S Fut Act Ind AGAPAW = future used to establish a command**) THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL (**HOLOS = looks at the entirety**) YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' (Deut uses **M'ODH = exceedingly, intensity in view**; the word for mind is **DIANOIA = mind, understanding, thinking through**; the heart, soul, mind are not mutually exclusive but are interlinked)

**Mark 12:29** Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD;

**Mark 12:30** AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'

**Summary:**

1. Jesus began His answer with the passage known to the Jews as "The SHAMA." Deut 6:4 cf Mark 12:29
2. The real focus of this verse is not the individual elements of heart, soul, and mind but the emphasis on "all."
3. Matthew quotes Deuteronomy exactly, having an audience that would be more Jewish.
4. Mark adds the word "strength" which reaches more to the Gentiles.  
Mark 12:30
5. The command is designed to reach to the entirety of our being, no matter what division of function is used.
6. Anything less than "all" is a violation of the command.

**Matt 22:38 = The Declaration.**

"This is the great (**MEGAL8**) and foremost (**PRWT8**) commandment.

**Summary:**

1. The commandment is to be heard and obeyed.
2. It is number one in extent and number one in priority.

**Matt 22:39 = The Additional Instruction. (Mark 12:31)**

"The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

**Mark 12:31** "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

**Summary:**

1. Jesus has just given the bottom line of theology in that there is no commandment greater than these. Mark 12:31
2. He has stated the correct application of the major issue of the Angelic Conflict.
3. He has also given the bottom line of the question, "How then shall we live?" Eze 33:10

**Matt 22:40 = The Importance Of The Answer. (Mark 12:32-34)**

"On these two commandments depend (**KREMANNUMI = 7x; to hang, as from a tree or a cross**) the whole Law and the Prophets."

**Mark 12:32** The scribe said to Him, "Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that HE IS ONE, AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BESIDES HIM;

**Mark 12:33** AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART AND WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE ONE'S NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

**Mark 12:34** When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

**Summary:**

1. The focus of the Law is absolute standards established and given by God.
2. The focus of the prophets is on the relationships between God and humanity throughout all history.
3. The Law and Prophets hang on the issue of love for God and one another.
4. Jesus has just drawn a spiritual picture of the cross.
5. And has placed love upon it. Gal 3:13-14
6. Jesus indeed came to fulfill the Law and Prophets. Matt 5:17-20
7. One of the scribes commended Jesus on His answer. Mark 12:32
8. The scribe had some correct understanding of the Word. Mark 12:32-33
9. Jesus told the scribe that he was not far from the Kingdom of God. Mark 12:34