

## Mark 12:28-34

### **The greatest commandment**

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?'

<sup>29</sup> 'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>31</sup> The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself."<sup>[c]</sup> There is no commandment greater than these.'

<sup>32</sup> 'Well said, teacher,' the man replied. 'You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. <sup>33</sup> To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.'

<sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

## 1 John 2:1-8

**2** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate

with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

## **Love and hatred for fellow believers**

<sup>3</sup> We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. <sup>4</sup> Whoever says, 'I know him,' but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. <sup>5</sup> But if anyone obeys his word, love for God<sup>[a]</sup> is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: <sup>6</sup> whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. <sup>8</sup> Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

