

THIS IS THE

FIRST

AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Love God With All Your Mind

- This refers to our *intellect, thinking, and learning*.
- We devote our minds to “*the meat of the word*” and to “*examining the Scriptures daily*” (Acts 17:11).
- This must not be confused with cold *intellectualism*.

Love God With All Your Heart

- This refers to our *feelings*, our *emotions*.
- Remember the power of *feeling* in reading Scripture, especially the *emotive* nature of the Psalms.
- This must not be confused with *emotionalism*.

Love God With All Your Soul

- The word for *soul* is also translated as *life* (Matthew 6:25; John 15:13).
- The Lord is teaching us we must love God with the very *life* that is within us.
- We must be willing to give that life for Him, as so many have done before us.

Love God With All Your Strength

- We are to love God with *everything* we have, *everything*, or we do not love Him at all.
- There is the strength of *youth*, the experience of *mid-life*, and the wisdom of *age*.
- We love Him with whatever *time*, *talent*, and *treasure* we have, all of which comes from Him!

The Lord is teaching us this is the first and great commandment because it encompasses everything about us. There is no part of our being that is not devoted to loving God.

If we fail in obeying this command, there is no need to be concerned about the others.