

“Greeting Team”

For Sunday, January 19

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go “welcome” people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

Greeters this week:

Randy Ehlers Monday Night

- 1st— D Mastbergen Thursday Night;
- 2nd— Justin Taylor Sunday Night;
- 3rd—Randy Ehlers Monday Night;
- 4th—Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon; Tackett Sunday Night

Small Groups @ MBC

Are the primary means for carrying out “pastoral care” in the body

Announcements

1. Looking For A 2025 Bible Reading Plan?
www.crossway.org/search/?q=bible+reading+plan
2. Looking For Your 1st Book In 2025? Check out Recovering Eden (On Ecclesiastes) by Zack Eswine

The Most Important Commandment

Several times in my lifetime, I’ve found myself in a conversation with someone who made a statement that they intended to ask God about something when they saw Him someday! How about you? If you could ask God any question, what would it be? Well, in Mark’s Gospel, the writer says that: “One of the scribes approached. When he heard them debating and saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked Him, “Which command is the most important of all?” Of all the 613 commands found in the Torah (Jewish Old Testament), which was THE most important? Wow! That’s a big question! Which command is at the top of the list? Don’t wanna miss that one! “*This is the most important,*” Jesus answered: “*Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*” (Mark 12:28-30). This is really a timely post as it seems the church, in general, is confused about “worship.” But Jesus really clears things up, doesn’t He? He’s really saying that we have to love God with ALL of our being—ALL of our “heart” & our “soul” & our “mind” & our “strength.” So, it’s impossible to love God until we know Him! But we live in a day when everyone claims to love God! That may be a generalization, but I’m absolutely stunned by the number of times that totally lost, unregenerate people—who have NO IDEA “Who” God is—still tell me they LOVE Him! I can believe them when they say they “love” pizza, for example, because they’ve tasted it! They’ve handled it! I can believe them when they say they “love” hunting because it’s something they’ve done! They take their dog and a friend! So, they’ve experienced it! But you cannot possibly love God until you KNOW God! Until you’ve met Him and know Him well enough to explain WHY you love Him! Study Jesus’ words! That’s precisely what He’s saying! Jesus says we must love God PERSONALLY! Notice, from His response to the scribe’s question, how Jesus uses six “personal” pronouns, and every one of them is “possessive”—“*The Lord OUR God*”; “*Love the Lord YOUR God*”... “*with all YOUR HEART*”... “*with all YOUR SOUL*”... “*with all YOUR MIND*”... “*with all YOUR STRENGTH.*”



Love God Personally

THE most important commandment in all of Scripture is to have a personal, possessive love for God, Jesus says. And you cannot love someone you don’t know! My wife and I have been married 42 years, but I confess to you that there were 20 years during which time I did not love her! Not one bit of love did I have for her, and the reason was that I didn’t know her! I hadn’t met her yet! Once I did, I grew to love her as I came to know her! That’s no different with God! We have to know Him personally before we can claim to love Him! We come to know His character, and we know Him through Jesus and the Word! And when we truly know Him, we can’t help but love Him.