

PART 56: THE WEAK LINK, 12:13-27.

#1. The weak link is unattended human reasoning. The generalization is that human reason is to contract back upon revelation. "Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement", 12:13. These learned, yet corrupt men wanted to drag the Lord into political discourse. #2. Then came the "Sadducees"...and began questioning Him...", 12:18-23. Thinking to entrap the Lord in a contrivance about marriage. #3. Here is the heart of His response: "...Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God?", 12:24. #4. Their problem: The starting point was wrong. Much time can be spent in reading the Bible and yet no understanding emerges. Those men did not "understand" the Bible nor what it teaches about the "power of God". #5. The Bible proclaims propositional truth (ideas presented in stipulated propositions) to the human mind. They were too busy interpreting scripture to comprehend its meaning. "Mistaken" was the word. There was no grasp of the fact that the revealed meaning precedes the human mind. The meaning is in the text and not in the reasoning of men. #6. They were "mistaken"; they did not understand that revealed truth is to be learned, submitted to and treasured for its own sake. #7. And then: "But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses (Exodus 3:6), in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God Jacob'", 12:26. #8. A universe of knowing is fitted into those words. The "Pharisees", the "scribes", "Herodians" and "Sadducees" were wrong about everything. Life is a continuum; it starts here, transits through death and goes into life without end! #9. The patriarchs were and are quite alive. The power of God commands every particle of time and materiality. This world cannot be compared to the world to come! #10. None of this is knowable apart from revealed truth; appearances mean nothing! Those men were children in a very different world than they conceived. The truth: "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken", 12:27.

PART 57: THE VIRTUE OF ACCURATE THINKING, 12:13-27.

#1. One often hears of the touted advantages of "critical thinking"; but Jesus surely indicates that "accurate thinking" is more trustworthy. #2. The "...Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection)..." (12:18), according to the Lord, were inaccurate in their understanding of life, death, the power of God and the word of God, 12:24. #3. Their articulation of the question about the "seven brothers" and the "wife" (12:19-23) was demonstrative of their ignorance. We take the term accurate to mean correct in every detail and exact. #4. The Lord took the position that the word of God is the language manifold that tells us how to think accurately about all other things and about how all other things are represented. Without that premise they were "greatly mistaken", 12:27. That, however, is not generally accepted, even among the churches. It certainly was not the reasoning of the Sadducees. #5. Of course, the Sadducees were fraudulent in having put the question as they did to Jesus, since they did not believe in the resurrection. #6. There was no belief in the separable soul, detachable at death, there was no heaven and according to them, there was no life after death. #7. The Lord draws attention to Exodus 3:6 (12:26) where the Almighty spoke of "...the fact that the dead

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rise again...". This fact is discernible from the language of the Lord to Moses at the burning bush: "...I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken", 12:26, 27. #8. Jesus teaches us about another fact: Faith in the word of God and the power of God is a higher order of abstraction and therefore a higher order of knowing than was thought possible by the humanistic Sadducees. #9. Because they did not "understand" the Scriptures and the power of God, the sadduceean ideology confiscated accurate thinking. "For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given marriage, but are like angels in heaven", 12:25. #10. Inaccurate thinking and sadduceean ideology are identical. We should not try to face the rigors of this world on the weak platform of inaccurate thinking.

PART 58: THERE IS ONLY ONE EXPLANATION, 12:28-34.

#1. There are two "foremost" commandments: First. "...Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord! 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", (Deuteronomy 6:4, 5), 12:29, 30. Second. "...You shall love your neighbor as yourself...", (Leviticus 19:18), 12:31. #2. Then, with emphasis, "...There is no other commandment greater than these", 12:31. This being the case, then, all the other commandments must be derived from these two stipulated commandments. Or the others all contract back upon these two. #3. The "scribe" in question responded in complete agreement with Jesus' teaching, 12:32, 33. This man "...answered intelligently..." (12:34) and for that answer the Lord said to him "...You are not far from the kingdom of God...". #4. What had the scribe learned? Generalization: There is only one explanation--for everything! The word of God, revelation, the Bible is the door of access to the singular explanation for all things. The scribe was reading the text in just such a way as to begin to comprehend that the singular explanation for all things is the "one Lord". #5. This explanation was revealed in scripture; a supernatural explanation, it was not generated by the human mind. The Lord holds the monopoly on the singular understanding of the eternal and the temporal. #6. In fact, these two commandments put a cap on the search for explanations. "The scribe said to Him, 'Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that He is One, and there is no one else besides Him'", 12:32. #7. Not just monotheism, the scribe acknowledged that God is the singular source of all things. There is a singular source of power in the universe. All things in creation are, in fact, downstream from the one explanation. #8. There is no such thing as natural explanations. Nature explains nothing, accounts for nothing. Experience fails as the most effective source of explanation. Here is the most prominent problem with faith; the lack of the recognition of the one, singular explanation for all things. #9. The one explanation acts as a grammar on how human lived experience is represented in the dimension of time. This acknowledgment begins to close the "distance" between a man and the kingdom of God ("not far from"). #10. The one revealed explanation precedes man and his experience in time; human derived explanations are generated post experience and in denial of the one singular explanation.

PART 59: THE ONE, SINGULAR, REVEALED EXPLANATION, 12:28-34.

#1. When the Lord identified the two "foremost" (important) commandments, Deuteronomy 6:4, 5 (12:29, 30) and Leviticus 19:18 (12:31) then, as well, He established a perpetual frame of reference for true understanding: The one, singular, revealed explanation of all things. #2. And that one explanation is the One God. The scribe grasped this truth; "...He is One, and there is no one else besides Him;", 12:32. #3. Since there is only one revealed explanation then a correlative human response is stipulated: "...and you shall love the Lord your God...", 12:31. #4. The one, singular, revealed explanation is not a thing, but a person. The One living God is the One living explanation for all things! It, therefore, is active at every depth; being much more than just a principle. #5. That love for Him is exercised in four stipulated dimensions that take effect in the temporal world. #6. The right, accurate, true understanding of man is not psychological nor sociological; it is revealed. The one revealed explanation would be the covering rationale for all human institutions. #7. Individuals were created for and intended to live within the one, singular, revealed explanation behind all things. The axis of that relation is love that overtakes one's whole being. #8. "...love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength", 12:30. #9. Those dimensions of love must cover the totality of a man and they coalesce to assert revealed meaning for all human experience. #10. Such love dispenses with any indifference to the One explanation. No contradiction endures between the dimensions of a man. The wholeness of man is achieved by the linking of the parts together by the One explanation.

PART 60: THE ONE, SINGULAR, REVEALED EXPLANATION, 12:28-34.

#1. "The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these", 12:31. #2. For many decades scholarly observers have commented upon the supposed fragmentation and/or the alienation of men from one another and even of that between workers and the things they produce; a little bit Marxist. Power is the major issue, they think. #3. But the One explanation changes all the rules for life. A man's expressed "love" for the One God (12:29, 30) and in the four dimensions of a man have far-reaching implications. #4. Philology is concerned with the structure of language and its historical development. So, philology provides a universe of meanings, developed over time, by men in historical conditions. All of us are born into that philological universe of meaning, which stands outside of and beyond the One, singular, revealed explanation. Men cannot resolve their foibles (weaknesses) apart from the One explanation. #5. Human history has, accordingly, suffered. The One, singular, revealed explanation for all things, delivers supernatural meaning and eternal wisdom to those who want it! #6. It guarantees that believers are not held captive by contemporary ideas, perspectives, words and meanings, so contradictory to the One explanation. #7. There is a kind of faith that is not predicated on the One explanation and its revealed truths. A faith predicated upon "doctrine" remains largely separated, effectively, from the treasure store of truth enabled by the One, singular, revealed explanation. #8. Thus, Israel turned back on the day of battle, Numbers 13, 14;

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Abraham chose the natural way, Genesis 16; Pharisees, scribes and others preferred philology over revelation, 12:13-34. #9. No contemporary believer or church can escape the world as it is, unless the One, singular, revealed explanation displaces its influence over thought, speech and behavior! Otherwise believers and churches look just like the world around them.