**Notes and thoughts on “The Shema”:**

**Mark 12:29-30 What is the greatest commandment in the law?**

**SHEMA** from Deut. 6:4-5 and Matt. 22:37-40

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul and mind, and with all thy strength,

and

Lev. 19:8

“thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself:”

Who is our neighbor? Anyone within the radius of our thought near or far.

Story told of John, the Beloved Disciple in Jerome’s Commentary in the Gal.

*John was very advanced in years and would stand up at every AGAPE feast and repeat the same testimony, “Little children, love one another.” And then he would sit down. They held the Agape feasts at this time, nightly, so this same word was frustrating to the early listeners. Finally someone asked him, “John, why do you repeat this same instruction every single night, don’t you have something new to tell us?”*

*John remarked, “Little children, if you will love one another, that will fulfill it all, you will have done everything.”*

**Love for God and Man: the 2 greatest commandments**

**On these two hang all the Law and the Prophets! The Torah, the prophetic books, equals the whole Bible.**

**What does this mean for us?** (from commentary)

- to give our lives over to God, to fix our affections on Him

- to serve Him and only Him

- do His will

- be willing to be taught of Him

- to labor and toil only for His glory

- to do this with every faculty and capacity of our being

**Here are some questions to ask ourselves and to ponder:**

**What is my motive, Father?**

- to serve you

- demonstrate the meekness, the obedience, the love for God

**Father, what would you have me to do today?**

* Is. 6:8 “Here am I, send me!”
* I’m willing to do your will. Help me to see this will and be obedient to it

**What is my only desire?**

- to know you better

- to express the receptivity, willingness and desire to know you

**What is my purpose in life?**

- to be the man or woman that God has made, to be image, no matter

where you place me or what I am doing!

* To conform my life to God in every avenue

**What do I value above all else?**

* An understanding of you and Jesus Christ
* An understanding of the Science of the Christ

**What does this eliminate from my life?**

total elimination of a selfhood apart from God

confusion

sickness, disease, death

frustration

duality

compromise

discontent

lack of focus

lawlessness,