

THURSDAY Week 9B

First Reading: **2 Tim 2: 8-15;**

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 25: 4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14;

Gospel Reading: Mark 12:28-34.

THEME: The Greatest Commandment: The Law of Love

God teaches his ways (as we acknowledge in the Responsorial Psalm) through his Word and Commandments. The experts of the Law expanded the Mosaic Law into 613 commandments. The Scribes tested if Jesus Christ understood the Law like them. Jesus Christ outlined the two commandments of love of God (Dt 6: 4-5) and Love of neighbor as found in (Lev 19: 18).

For Jesus Christ, these commandments are quite inseparable and require action and COMMITMENT. God makes every person in his image and likeness (Gen 1: 27). To see a person is to see an image of God the Creator who created out of love. God is LOVE and made us for love. The more we love God, the more we are drawn to our neighbor made in the image of God. Love uproots selfishness and replaces it with selflessness.

The two commandments are one: the Law of love. They are not just intellectual, understanding, or mere knowledge. Although the Scribe had a very good understanding of the Law, Jesus Christ said he is “not far from the Kingdom.” He still has to make the crucial step of commitment. We do not know whether he took that step or not. We can take that step, make our choice to start today or renew our commitment to keep this double commandment, and reflect on how zealous we are about the love of God and our neighbor.

By Fr. Sev Kupo, Associate Pastor