



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## All Your Strength

JULY 7, 2014

### Scripture Passage

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.* Mark 12:30

We have come to the final presentation of Mark 12:30. Previously we considered what it means to love the Lord, and then we explored separately the topics of loving God with your heart, soul, and mind. This study will take up the topic of loving God with all your strength.

Some commentators have suggested that Jesus inserted the word mind (that we previously studied) as it is caught up in the notion of strength. In other words, it is suggested that Jesus was saying love the Lord with all your mental strength. Regardless of the exact way to represent this passage one thing is clear: we are called to love God with all of our energy. God demands our best and strongest effort when it comes to loving Him.

Jesus exemplified this in many ways. He fasted 40 days in the desert and took on a personal confrontation with Satan. He loved the Father more than anything else. He was essentially homeless during the ministry years and he described himself as one who had no pillow on which to rest his head. He often would go out alone and seek His Father, putting aside

the pleasures of companionship, food, and rest.

Jesus' struggles in the Garden on the eve of His crucifixion caused him to suffer to the point that his body and soul were in deep anguish. But Jesus persisted in His mission to go to the cross.

### Example of Paul

We must be careful and understand that no one other than Christ can actually love God with every ounce of their strength. And, with Paul we see how he struggles in this godly effort.

*Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:12-14

A little reflection will show any of us that in many ways we are not strong in our love for God. We are weak. The Bible recognizes this truth and has much to say by example and by doctrine.

### The Weak in the Old Testament

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#### BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: THURSDAY MORNINGS, 7:30 AM, LIGHT BREAKFAST SERVED

STAFF: MONDAYS, 12:00 NOON, CHAPEL, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR LB

# North Carolina

## All Your Strength

The Old Testament servants of God generally protested their insignificance and inability to take on the challenge that God presented to them. Moses considered himself too poor a speaker to stand before Pharaoh. Gideon saw himself as an insignificant person but God raised him up to be a judge over Israel.

### The Weak in the New Testament

The disciples fled in weakness during the events of the crucifixion. They had no strength to stand with Jesus in His hour of need. Peter was so weak he cowered before the accusations of a young girl, and denounced Jesus rather than take courage and strength to face the ordeal ahead.

Mark deserted Paul and Barnabas on his first attempt at a mission trip. Paul mentions others who failed to love the Lord with strength and conviction. Demas deserted Paul in his hour of need because his love was for the world.

*For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.*

2 Timothy 4:10

### An Exceptional Disciple

The one disciple who did not desert Jesus was John. It is significant that John is called the beloved disciple. His strength for Jesus was matched by his love. While Jesus hung on the cross He turned to John and gave him custody

of Mary. Jesus knew John's strong love made him the one to look after His mother.

### Paul's Solution

Paul admitted his weakness but he shares with us the secret of loving the Lord with our strength.

*If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.* 2 Corinthians 11:30

We are weak but God is the one who gives us strength to love Him. Like other blessings from above our strength is all of grace.

*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.* 2 Corinthians 12:9

The Spirit of God abides with those who trust in His grace, and He offers comfort and power in our weakness.

*And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.* Corinthians 2:3-5

The God who tells us to love him and be strong in that conviction is the same God who gives us the power to be strong.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.* Ephesians 6:10