

# The Great Commandment 'Backwards'

## Mark 12

<sup>31</sup>And **the second**, like it, is this:  
"You shall love your neighbor as  
yourself."

<sup>29</sup>Jesus answered him, "**The first of  
all the commandments** is: "Hear,  
O Israel, the LORD our God, the  
LORD is one. <sup>30</sup>And you shall love  
the LORD your God with all your  
heart, with all your soul, with all your  
mind, and with all your strength.  
**'This is the first commandment.**

## The Great Commandment Backwards

## Revelation 2

<sup>2</sup>"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup>and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

<sup>4</sup>**Nevertheless** I have this against you, that **you have left your first love**. <sup>5</sup>Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

.....  
<sup>7</sup>"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes **I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."**

Returning to our "**First Love**" (loving Him above all other "duties" and desires) restores us to the loving fellowship with God lost in the Garden (**Genesis 3**):

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

**Are we so busy doing "works" (hiding behind trees) that we don't hear His loving call to fellowship with Him FIRST?**