

The question is ... What is "the main thing"? In Exodus 20:3, the *first* command (not suggestion) is "You shall have no other gods before me." In Ecclesiastes 12:13, after Solomon has debated all manner of things and sought the meaning of life, he wrote "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

When Jesus was asked "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" (Matt 22:36) Jesus replied (Matt 22:37-40): "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

"The main thing" is to love and obey God. And that means obey, submit, trust, believe, and try to live a holy and pure life. Can we do it? No. That's also why there is *grace*. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not [continued on the back] from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast." (Eph 2:8-9) You can't be good enough to deserve heaven. You can't be bad enough to be beyond His grace and mercy.

The main thing? *Love God.* If you love God, you'll *want* to obey Him, and that includes loving people, and living a holy life.

A little girl was softly saying her night prayers kneeling down, and her mother was beside her. "Say your prayers louder, darling, I can't hear you," said the mother.

"But I'm not talking to you," was the instant reply.

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