

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Ruth** chapter 1 verses 8-18, which can be found on page 298 in the **old testament** of your pew bible...*

⁸Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back, both of you, to your mothers' homes. May the Lord keep faith with you, as you have kept faith with the dead and with me; ⁹and may he grant each of you security in the home of a new husband.' She kissed them and they wept aloud. ¹⁰Then they said to her, 'We will return with you to your own people.'¹¹ But Naomi said, 'Go back, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Am I likely to bear any more sons to be husbands for you? ¹²Go back, my daughters, go. I am too old to marry again. But even if I could say that I had hope of a child, if I were to marry this night and if I were to bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they grew up? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, no, my daughters, my lot is more bitter than yours, because the Lord has been against me.'¹⁴ At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and returned to her people, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵'You see,' said Naomi, 'your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; go back with her.'¹⁶ 'Do not urge me to go back and desert you', Ruth answered. 'Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. I swear a solemn oath before the Lord your God: nothing but death shall divide us.'¹⁸ When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said no more

Sunday, November 3, 2024

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*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Mark chapter 12, verses 28-34**, which can be found on page **60** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

²⁸Then one of the lawyers, who had been listening to these discussions and had noted how well he answered, came forward and asked him, 'Which commandment is first of all?' ²⁹Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is the only Lord; ³⁰love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." ³¹The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' ³²The lawyer said to him, 'Well said, Master. You are right in saying that God is one and beside him there is no other. ³³And to love him with all your heart, all your understanding, and all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself—that is far more than any burnt offerings or sacrifices.' ³⁴When Jesus saw how sensibly he answered, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.'

May the Lord God help us to apply this scripture in our lives.