

FAROL

Saint Anselm (1033-1109), monk, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Letter 112, to Hugh the Hermit; Opera omnia, 3, p.245

"The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Since to reign in heaven is nothing other than to cleave to God and all the saints through love according to a single will such that all together express one and the same power, love God more than yourself and you will already begin to take hold of what you desire to possess perfectly in heaven. Make your peace with both God and men – at least, unless these latter separate themselves from God – and you will already begin to reign together with God and the saints. Because, to the extent that you bring yourself into harmony with the will of both God and men, God and the saints will be in harmony with your will. And so, if you wish to become a king in heaven, love God and men as you ought and you will be worthy of becoming what you desire.

However, you won't be able to possess this love perfectly until you empty your heart of every other love... Indeed, that is why those who fill their hearts with love for God and neighbor have no other will but that of God - or of some other man provided it is not contrary to God. That is why they are faithful to prayer as also to conversing about and keeping heaven in mind. For it is their happiness to desire God and speak of him whom they love, to hear him spoken about and to bear him in mind. This, too, is why they rejoice with those who are joyful, weep with those in sorrow (Rom 12,15), they have compassion for the unfortunate and give to the poor, for they love others as themselves... Yes, it is truly in this way that «the whole Law and the prophets depend on these two commandments" of love.