

Christ and the Law

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Matthew 5:17-20

- The Character of the Believer (Matthew 5:3-12)
 - Remember who you are (son of God & joint-heir with Christ)
 - Remember whose you are (God's created and purchased possession)
- The Function of the Believer (Matthew 5:13-16) (The focus is on "being")
 - Salt of the Earth
 - Light of the World
- The Foundation of the Believer (Matthew 5:17-20)
 - Everything Christ teaches is in harmony with the Old Testament (Matt 5:17-18)
 - Everything Christ teaches is in opposition with the religious establishment (Scribes and Pharisees) (Matthew 5:19-20)

I. The Preeminence of the Scripture (Matthew 5:17)

- A. The Warning About our Thinking from Christ (5:17, *Do not think*)
1. The Questions:
 - a) Is this new Teacher denying the Holy Writings?
 - b) Is this carpenter denying and disbelieving the Scriptures?
 - c) Has He come to usher in a new law and do away with the old?
 - d) Is His Teaching absolutely new? Is He turning His back on the past?
 - e) Is He denouncing the Law and the Prophets? Is there some new way of pleasing God?
 2. **Think** - The Warning regarding our thinking. Our thinking is impacted by our sin nature.
 - a) Do not think (Do not suppose – Do not believe – do not consider - do not presume)
 - b) **to suppose** v. — to think or believe (something) without being fully settled in mind or opinion.
 - c) Jesus is giving warning to those listening to Him teach about their presuppositions about Him and His teaching.
 3. **Abolish** - The basic idea is to tear down and smash to the ground, to obliterate completely.
 - a) The same word used for the destruction of the Temple (Matthew 24:2; 26:61)
 - b) It is used regarding the death of the physical body (2 Corinthians 5:1)
 - c) Abolish is the exact opposite of the mission of Christ (affirmation).
 4. **Fulfill** –
 - a) What it does not mean – it does not mean to complete in the sense of finishing.
 - b) Rather, it means to complete as filling a container completely in every sense. Carrying out everything that has been said; full obedience (fill up – no unoccupied space).
 - c) Jesus is the theme of the Old Testament
 - (1) **Luke 24:27**, *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*
 - (2) **Luke 24:44**, *Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."*
 - (3) **John 5:39**, *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,*
 - (4) **Hebrews 10:7**, *Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'* "
- B. The Elevation of the Scriptures (Law and Prophets) by Christ
1. Scripture is unchanging (eternal)
 - a) The Law of God never changes (**Malachi 3:6**, "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.") Unchanging, Immutable, Eternal. Not for culture, times, persons, etc.
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2. The Law – what is it?
 - a) The Moral – regulate behavior (Ten Commandments).
 - b) The Judicial – regulates Israel as a Theocracy
 - c) The Ceremonial – regulate Israel’s worship of God
3. The Prophets
 - a) The Prophets taught, applied, and interpreted the Law.
 - b) They were “forth-tellers” instructing the nation in the law.
 - c) They were “fore-tellers” of the Messiah’s coming.

II. EXCURSUS or Digression

- A. **2 Peter 1:16–21, (LSB):** *For we did not make known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, following cleverly devised myths, but being eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”— 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And we have as more sure [not likely to fail; or give way; always filled with running water; constant & continual] the prophetic word, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 Know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes by one’s own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever made by the will of man, but men being moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*
 1. Our confidence is not in the experiences of men
 2. Our confidence is in God alone.
 - a) **2 Corinthians 1:20** *For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.*
- B. The Prophets on the foretelling of Christ
 1. The Messiah will come from the “seed of a woman” **Genesis 3:15 (LSB)**, *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”* (Compare to Genesis 4:1)
 2. The Messiah will come from the nation of Israel **Genesis 12:1–3**, *Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* (Compare to Galatians 3:8, 16)
 3. The Messiah will come from the Tribe of Judah **Genesis 49:10**, *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*
 4. The Messiah will come from the Family of David **2 Samuel 7:12–13**, *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*
 5. The Messiah will be born of a virgin **Isaiah 7:14**, *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
 6. The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem **Micah 5:2**, *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.*
 7. The Messiah will be born on time (Daniel 9:24-27) **Daniel 9:24–25 (ESV) — 24** *“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. 25 Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.*