

# Christ and the Law (Part 2)

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Matthew 5:17-20

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## The Introduction of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount

- **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 Permanence of the Scripture (Matthew 5:18)

- A. God's Revelation
  - 1. General revelation – is the revelation of God of Himself generally through His creation.
    - a) Is not sufficient to show us the way of salvation, yet is sufficient enough to damn us and render us without excuse (**Romans 1:20-21**)
  - 2. Special revelation – is the revelation of God of Himself in the Bible.
    - a) It shows us the way of salvation, specifically in the person and work of Christ, and in this way, is sufficient.
  - 3. When Jesus spoke, "*For truly, I say to you,*" He was strongly, intensely affirming the Scripture. His statements were without qualification."
- B. Scripture's Testimony
  - 1. **Matthew 24:35**, *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*
  - 2. **Matthew 5:17**, *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*
  - 3. **Psalms 119:89**, *Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.*
  - 4. **Psalms 119:152**, *Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever.*
  - 5. **Isaiah 40:8**, *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*
  - 6. **1 Peter 1:25**, *But the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*
- C. God's Word will outlast the universe.
  - 1. **2 Peter 3:7**, *But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.* **2 Peter 3:10**, *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*
  - 2. **Psalms 102:25-26**, *Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 26 They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,*
  - 3. **Isaiah 51:6**, *Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.* (see also Isaiah 34:4 & Revelation 6:13-14)

## II. The Pertinence of the Scripture (Matthew 5:19)

- A. The Law has Significance.
  - 1. Therefore, is there for a reason. The previous statements in verses 17 & 18.
  - 2. There is nothing more relevant than Scripture. It is pertinent to daily living.
- B. The Law Measures Responses

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1. “*Relaxes*” – annuls; can mean to break, set loose, release, dissolve, or to melt. Stronger use in verse 17, “*abolish*.”
  2. “*Acts*” & “*Teaches*”
    - a) **1 Thessalonians 2:10–12**, *You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. 11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.*
    - b) **1 Timothy 4:11–12**, *Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*
  3. The Clarification (Judicial (Civil) and Ceremonial)
    - a) **Ephesians 2:14–15**, *For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,*

### III. The Purpose of the Scripture (Matthew 5:20)

- A. **Matthew 5:20**, *For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*
- B. What is Jesus confronting? The false teaching of salvation by effort.
  1. **Romans 4:3**, *For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”*
  2. **Genesis 15:6**, *And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*
- C. Jesus later response to self-effort by some (Luke 18:9)
- D. Justification is the act of God<sup>1</sup>
  1. **Romans 8:30**, *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*
  2. Justification is God’s response to our faith. **Romans 3:26**, *It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*
  3. Justification is the legal act of God whereby he declares our sins forgiven and Christ’s righteousness as belonging to us and declares us to be righteous in his sight.
- E. What should we do?
  1. We should receive the Word (**James 1:21**, *Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*)
  2. We should honor the Word (**Psalms 119:103**, *How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*)
  3. We should obey the Word (**Jeremiah 15:16**, *Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.*
  4. We should defend the Word (**Jude 3**, *Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. [struggle, fight, strenuous, labored effort in someone’s behalf]*
  5. We should proclaim the Word (**Matt 28:18-20**)

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<sup>1</sup> Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020.