

STUDY NUMBER THREE - Matthew 5:17-20

TEXT:

v.17 Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.

v.18 For truly I am saying to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one smallest letter nor smallest letter-marking shall pass away from the law, until all is accomplished.

v.19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them, this one shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

v.20 For I am saying to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Aggies
① can't afford
To fire their coach
② New Chinese
coach "win"
one - soon

Happy Labor Day

Flag
Letter

Surgeon
Tutor

INTRODUCTION:

Tees Turners
Kick off
Sunday Dinner

Board Meeting Report on Giving
① napthaly June Hunt
② Regan
③ publication
④ camping Baltimore

In study number one we learned about what a Christian is.

In study number two we learned about what a Christian does.

Now in Study number three we are going to talk about the Christian's relationship to the Law and the prophets.

How does
this life style
relate to the
Law!!

our problem is
we are trying to
do without being
external performance
without internal
reality

Hypocrisy *

IF the emphasis is on "being" (beatitudes; light; salt) what about
the doing of the Law!!

v.17 Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or
the prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to
fulfill.

Does it matter what I do if all the emphasis is on
being. Being precedes doing. Flowing from my character with be
my conduct.

Jesus wants to correct some possible misunderstanding because
of the authority with which He speaks and is going to speak.
And so He first of all says negatively, "Do not think that
I came to abolish the Law or the prophets." Negatively,
"I did not come to abolish, but," (positively) "to fulfill."

Here Christ uses the Law in the sense of the Old Testament,
not just the Mosaic Law but the Old Testament revelation.
He came to make good the whole scope of the Old Testament,
the precepts such as the Mosaic law, the promises such
as prophetic truth. I have come to fulfill the whole pro-
gram of God as you have it in the revelation.

Total O.T.
in view: Law, Prophets,
Psalms etc.

New way of living Abolishes
The law!

NO!

Guy King in his book The New Order points out, "One of our leading Bible teachers has vouched for it, that approximately, He quoted 66 times from the Pentateuch, 40 from Isaiah, 37 from the Psalms, 22 from Daniel. Indeed, from the 39 books of His Bible, He used extracts from as many as 24. That is, so far as we know and going by His recorded utterances. Very likely, He laid all the remaining 15 under contribution and made far more frequent references to the book than we have any idea of."

165 Recorded Quotes

Must Fulfill
before He
is eligible!
Kinsman
Redeemer !!

J. Vernon McGee points out, "Christ came not to destroy the Law but to fulfill the Law. He fulfilled it in that He kept it during His earthly life, and the standard which was set before men He was able to attain. And now He is able to make over to you and me and every believer His own righteousness. God's standards have not changed but you and I cannot attain them in our own strength. We need help. We need a Savior. We do need mercy and we obtain mercy when we come to Christ."

Must Fulfill Then pay the penalty For our broken law = Purpose in Coming

D. Martyn Loyd-Jones points out, "The question then arises as to how this is to be done. That is the subject which now confronts us. The answer, in a word, can be put like this: We are to live a life of righteousness. That is the one word that sums up Christian living: righteousness. And the theme of the remainder of the sermon on the mount is in many ways just that: the kind of life of righteousness which the Christian is to live."

Do not Think That I came to abolish the law or the prophets

Four-fifths of Bible prophecy has already been fulfilled, and it has been fulfilled literally. This leaves us with one-fifth yet remaining to be fulfilled. And much of it has to do with the time of Jacob's trouble and the future millennial kingdom which will be Christ's rule and reign upon the earth. Christ has said here he did not come to abolish the Law or the prophets but he came to fulfill.

Over 300 prophecies were fulfilled when Christ died upon Calvary's cross.

v.18

For truly I am saying to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one smallest letter nor smallest letter-marking shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.

Hebrews = Backwards - ? - vowel pointings

inspiration = II Tim. 3:16,17 ; II Peter 1:21

- 4 Things Need
① Humanity
② Fulfill
③ Die in
Place
④ Resurre
father's
of Appre
difficult to accurately attribute

Brainium - Brain - Thinks
Borax - Heart, Lungs, Liver - live
Abominal Cavity - Bowels are, are

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Lenski points out, "Any number of human plans, promises, resolutions, laws and regulations prove abortive. Failing in their purpose, they are cast aside. Not so even the slightest word of God. It will attain whereunto it was spoken and written by God. Some of God's words have already reached their complete purpose and fulfillment and now stand thus in both testaments: for instance, all that was written about Christ's redemptive work. Other words of God are still in process of fulfillment; for instance, what He has said about the church. Still other words have not yet been fulfilled; for instance, those concerning the consummation. These still stand like empty vessels, waiting for their contents to be poured into them. But eventually every written word of God will stand like a vessel that is filled to the brim."

NO exceptions
Rev. 22:18,19 "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book. If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. If anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the Holy City which are described in this book."

God is in the process of putting everything in place for the Final wrap up!! Turn out the lights the party's over!!

v.19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them, this one shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Stuart Briscoe says, "The moral law of God is a principle of behavior for those who are in the kingdom. Jesus says that if you as a Christian in the kingdom are going to be disobedient in the least area of the moral law and teach people either by your words or actions that they can deny the moral law with impunity, you will be the least in the kingdom. We have an equation here: Disobedience plus denial equals disgrace. The moral law is relevant to the Christian."

G. Campbell Morgan points out, "Whosoever shall do and teach them'. The only power of teaching is that of the doing which precedes it. No man ever teaches a commandment with power if he is breaking it in his own life."

"do" Precedes "teaching" !!

Ezra 7:10 "For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the law of the Lord and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel."

Here Jesus puts things in proper perspective. First of all, you practice before you preach. You do before you teach. And he who allows his conduct and his creed to go together, this one shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

James 1:22 ; wise man & the foolish man...

How shall we escape if we neglect ... drift by opportunities.
John 4:35,36

v.20 For I am saying to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

For = Reason Work like crazy to be better than they are... Rom. 3:19.

Lenski points out, "This is what we are to do besides all the good we are able to do. We are to humble ourselves before God and say, 'Dear Lord, I am a poor sinner. Be gracious to me and judge me not according to my works but according to thy grace and mercy which thou hast promised and prepared in Christ.' Thus, this doctrine leads to this: that the Lord would warn us against spiritual pride and would bring us to the knowledge of our unclean wicked hearts and sinful nature; and thus lead us to hope of His grace. This, then, is the true righteousness."

Being Not Doing
II Cor. 5:17 Isaiah 64:6 "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. We all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind, our sins sweep us away."

Rom. 3:23 Come short ... Tried to set a record and failed
Hydro plane ... Bill Muncey

Always Score Matt. 5:8 "Blessed are those who are pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Race Car Drivers
Never Give up
Trying

Never learn the pattern! Luke 16:15 "He said to them, You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight."

Never learn the pattern! Matt. 23:25 "Woe to you teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You clean the outside of the cup and dish but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence."

① Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit
② " " they that mourn...

Throw in The Towel
No hope!

"Free from the Law, O happy condition,
Jesus hath bled, and there is remission.
Cursed by the Law and bruised by the fall,
Grace has redeemed us, once for all."

Gal.3:13 ; School master to X ...

J. Vernon McGee points out, "It is very important to see his point right here. The Pharisees had a high degree of righteousness according to the law but that was not acceptable. How can you and I surpass their righteousness? It is impossible in our own efforts. We need Christ to do it for us." phil.3: All loss For X

Youngling in his thesis "Principles of Personal Discipleship in the Sermon on the Mount" says, "This is a true source of encouragement for the disciple of today. Bonhoeffer in his book The Cost of Discipleship says, 'But the disciple has the advantage over the Pharisee in that his doing of the law is, in fact, perfect. How is such a thing possible? Because between the disciples and the law stands One who has perfectly fulfilled it, One with whom they live in communion. They are faced not with a law which has never yet been fulfilled but with one whose demands have already been satisfied. The righteousness it demands is already there, the righteousness of Jesus which submits to the cross because that is what the law demands. The righteousness is, therefore, not a duty owed but a perfect and truly personal communion with God. And Jesus not only possesses this righteousness but is himself the personal embodiment of it. He is the righteousness of the disciples. By calling them He has admitted them to partnership with himself and made them partakers of His righteousness in its fullness."

No man can possess and live in true righteousness without personally trusting in Christ's substitutionary death for him. In so doing, the disciple receives the righteousness of Christ, both positionally and progressively.

~~Marked~~ Romans 1:16,17 "I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last; just as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

I John 1:9 ; II Cor. 7:1 ; I John 1:9 ; I Cor. 11: ; Psalm 139:23,24
Job 42: ; Rom. 7: ; I Cor. 11: ; Psalm 139:23,24

* Positional

Soon we shall
I Jn. 3: 2

* Practical Phil. 1: 6

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Romans 3:10 "As it is written, There is no one righteous, no, not even one."

Romans 3:21ff "But now a righteousness from God apart from the law has been made known to which the law and the prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

Romans 4:3 "What does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Boice points out, "Jesus' words were all so difficult to accept because he was not saying that in order for a man to get to heaven he must have a slightly higher degree of the same kind of righteousness that the scribes and Pharisees had been accumulating. The first part of the sermon should have dispelled any thought of that. He was saying that if a man was to get to heaven, he must somehow have a different and better righteousness than these men were showing, and this meant that he must turn his back on human goodness altogether and receive instead the freely offered goodness of God. The Phillips translation of the New Testament makes this a little clearer by saying, 'For I tell you that your goodness must be a far better thing than the goodness of the scribes and Pharisees before you can set foot into the kingdom of heaven at all.'

* All human effort Must be rejected..

That is what salvation is all about. Is that what you believe or are you still among those who are spending a lifetime accumulating things that you think are going to earn heaven for you. If you are doing the latter, you need to learn that those things will take you to hell. Hell is full of human righteousness. You need to recognize the imperfections of this righteousness and accept the righteousness of God. Christians have always known this, and as a result, have written their recognition of this truth in a number of their hymns. One of the great hymns says, 'Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to thy cross I cling. Naked come to thee for dress, helpless look to thee for grace. Foul I to thy fountain fly. Wash me, Savior, or I die. Rock of Ages cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.' If you will pray that prayer,

Your goodness
Ain't going
to cut

Sacrifice
service

"Many
will
say

ple, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. ¹⁰As the Scriptures say,

"No one is good—
not even one.

¹¹ No one has real understanding;
no one is seeking God.

¹² All have turned away from
God;
all have gone wrong.

No one does good,
not even one."*

¹³ "Their talk is foul, like the
stench from an open
grave.

Their speech is filled with
lies."

"The poison of a deadly
snake drips from their
lips."*

¹⁴ "Their mouths are full of
cursing and bitterness."*

¹⁵ "They are quick to commit
murder.

¹⁶ Wherever they go, destruc-
tion and misery follow
them.

¹⁷ They do not know what true
peace is."*

¹⁸ "They have no fear of God
to restrain them."*

¹⁹ Obviously, the law applies to
those to whom it was given, for

3:10-12 Pss 14:1-3; 53:1-3. 3:13 Pss 5:9; 140:3. 3:14 Ps 10:7. 3:15-17 Isa 59:7-8. 3:18 Ps 36:1.

its purpose is to keep people from having excuses and to bring the entire world into judgment before God. ²⁰For no one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what his law commands. For the more we know God's law, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying it.

Christ Took Our Punishment

²¹ But now God has shown us a different way of being right in his sight—not by obeying the law but by the way promised in the Scriptures long ago. ²²We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.

²³ For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. ²⁵For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us. God was being entirely fair and just when he did

IF God Thought For A moment that we

could Gain eternal salvation by Keeping
the law. He would NOT have taken the drastic
Measures of sending His Son to the cross.

LUKE 18... page 1736

city came to him repeatedly, appealing for justice against someone who had harmed her. ⁴The judge ignored her for a while, but eventually she wore him out. 'I fear neither God nor man,' he said to himself, ⁵'but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'

⁶Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this evil judge. ⁷Even he rendered a just decision in the end, so don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who plead with him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when I, the Son of Man, return, how many will I find who have faith?"

Story of the Pharisee and Tax Collector

⁹Then Jesus told this story to some who had great self-confidence and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰"Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a dishonest tax collector. ¹¹The proud Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over

there! For I never cheat, I don't sin, I don't commit adultery, I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.'

¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.'

¹⁴I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For the proud will be humbled, but the humble will be honored."

Jesus Blesses the Children

¹⁵One day some parents brought their little children to Jesus so he could touch them and bless them, but the disciples told them not to bother him. ¹⁶Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁷I assure you, anyone who doesn't have their kind of faith will never get into the Kingdom of God."

The Rich Man

¹⁸Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: "Good teacher, what should I do to get eternal life?"

① God will wash you. ② God will cleanse you and He will give you the righteousness that is above anything that man can attain, and will receive you on the basis of that righteousness into heaven. ③

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from these verses?

LESSON #1: Christ came to fulfill the law and the prophets.

LESSON #2: Not one word will pass away unfulfilled.

LESSON #3: We are to be doing before we are teaching the Scripture.

LESSON #4: There is a righteousness by faith available in Jesus Christ that exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

William P. Barker in his book Kings in Shirtsleeves tells the following story: "In March, 1960, an earthquake obliterated the city of Agadir, Morocco. Visiting at the time the disaster struck were a young American airman and his wife. Lt. Gerald Martin was unharmed but Sue, his wife, was missing. Authorities urged Martin to leave at once. He insisted on staying on in the rubble to hunt for his wife. Although everyone told him it was hopeless, he would not abandon the search. Finally he located her, still alive, but trapped under seven feet of rubble. What did Martin do? Offer warnings to her about the perils of visiting earthquake zones, pass down a survival kit, give her cheery words of encouragement? No. Sue Martin needed none of these. Gerald Martin got down into the rubble, and with his own hands, did what Sue Martin could not do for herself."

Donald Gray Barnhouse tells the story, "When I landed at Makassar in the Celebes a few years ago, I was met by a little Malay boy who carried a bamboo cage containing

tiny monkeys about six inches high, perfect little creatures and very cute. The boy trailed me saying, 'Buy a monkey, mister? One dollar. Buy a monkey, mister?' I looked at the monkeys and walked along. The boy followed, lowering his price as he pleaded, 'Buy a monkey mister? Seventy-five cents.' And finally, fifty cents. The missionary who had met me at the ship explained that we couldn't take the monkey. I gave the boy a tip and he went away happy. The missionary then told me how those monkeys are caught. There is a gourd that grows long like a string bean. And upon reaching its full length, begins to swell. When the gourd is in the string bean state, a boy ties a cord around half of it so that half stops growing. The other half continues to swell. And thus a narrow-necked bottle is formed. Then the boy cuts off the gourd, hollows it out, drops in a couple of handfuls of rice and ties the gourd to a tree. The monkey smells the rice and thrusts in his paw to grab it but cannot pull his paw out. If he would drop the rice, he could get away. But so long as he holds on to the food, his paw acts like a cork in reverse. He is a prisoner of his own greed. Although the animal chatters, pulls and tugs, he still holds on to the rice and the boy slips a bamboo cage around him, then breaks the gourd. The monkey eats the rice and is sold down the river. That is the picture of many people who have their hands full of sin, full of themselves. God says, I will give you salvation to take you into heaven if you will admit that you have your paw full of something; and if you will drop it, admit that you are less than perfect, that you are the sinner that I say you are. Unless you open your hand and drop what you are clutching, I cannot give you my righteousness in Jesus Christ."

The results of Christ coming into the life and providing that righteousness which only he can bring is well expressed in the song by Catesby Paget:

"A mind at perfect peace with God,
O what a word is this.
A sinner reconciled through blood,
This, this, indeed is peace.
So near, so very near to God,
I cannot nearer be.
For in the person of His Son,
I am as near as He.
So dear, so very dear to God,
More dear I cannot be.
The love wherewith He loves the Son,
Such is His love to me."

cont.

your goodness aint going to get it.
"Church membership" "cut it,

your only hope of scoring is
turning it over to someone else.

Why should I ever careful be?
Since such a God is mine.
He watches o'er me night and day
And tells me mine is thine."

Martin Luther - A Mighty Fortress.

The Right. shall live by faith - .

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus'
blood + righteousness; I dare not trust the
Sweetest Frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' Name.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I
then in Him be found; Dressed in His righteousness
Alone, Faultless to stand before the throne.

on Christ the solid Rock I stand; All
other ground is sinking sand, All other ground
is sinking sand. . .