

## INTRODUCTION

Do you know the right answer to a certain pertinent question?

God spoke the Ten Commandments and carved them in stone at Mount Sinai in the time of Moses, in the establishment of the Old Covenant with Israel. But now that the Old Covenant is ended, and the New Covenant instituted in the blood of Jesus Christ, what are we Christians to do with the Ten Commandments today?

Today I am continuing to pose that question, and to present you with the parts you need to assemble the right answer.

Two weeks ago we heard parts of the answer from 16th-century reformers: Martin Luther, Phillip Melancthon, and Martin Chemnitz. They said:

Teach the Ten Commandments to everyone, especially children  
Use the Ten Commandments to show sinners their need of the gospel of Jesus Christ  
Use the Ten Commandments to tell the Christian how rightly to live the Christian life  
Use the Ten Commandments to help the Christian resist false doctrine

Last week we followed up on one of those by examining how our Lord Jesus used the Ten Commandments in dealing with the rich young ruler who came to Him; and what the apostle Paul wrote about the Ten Commandments. That study taught us that we use the Ten Commandments to show sinners their sinfulness and need for the Savior; then we preach to them the gospel of Jesus Christ the Savior who died for our sins; the good news of forgiveness of sins for those who repent in His name; the promise of eternal life for all who believe in Him. Theologians call that the first use of the law, or the pedagogical use of the law.

Today we further answer our question by hearing what our Lord Jesus said about how He came to fulfill the law.

## TEXT

Matthew 5:17-20 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. (18) For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. (19) Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (20) For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

## BODY

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law and the prophets...

I. In His Works Done As Foretold in the Prophets

A. How He was born to be "God with us;" as the brothers read to you already today

B. How He lived among us

1. the miraculous healing He performed

Matthew 8:16-17 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND BORE OUR SICKNESSES."

2. the meekness He displayed

Matthew 21:1-5 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." 4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 5 "TELL THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, LOWLY, AND SITTING ON A DONKEY, A COLT, THE FOAL OF A DONKEY.' "

C. How He suffered and died for us

1. The Lord Jesus - Luke 24:44-47 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

2. The apostle Peter - Acts 3:18 But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

3. The apostle Paul - Acts 13:27 For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him.

D. How He rose from the dead and sent forth the gospel

1. see Luke 24:46-47 as already read above

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law and the prophets in His works done as foretold in the prophets; and

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law and the prophets...

## II. In His Interpretation of the Morality Commanded in the Law

- A. Most of the talk in the New Testament about Jesus Christ “fulfilling” is about Him doing what the prophets foretold that Messiah would do when He came, and what would be done to Him. as we just saw together
- B. But in His words here, the Lord Jesus talks about “fulfilling” the law and the prophets primarily with reference to how His doctrine, His teaching, fulfills the law and the prophets; that is, His ethical instruction; His doctrine about morality, what is right and wrong
- C. The Lord Jesus said that the morality commanded in the law cannot be changed all during this age v. 18
  1. not in the least
    - a) one jot or one tittle - meaning neither the smallest letter nor even the smallest parts of a letter
    - b) nothing required or prohibited, not even by implication, that God’s moral law addresses, can be considered inconsequential; that does not change with the coming of Christ and the New Covenant
  2. not for the whole time
    - a) one day the Lord Jesus will come back...
    - b) until then, there will be no change in what’s right and what’s wrong
    - c) until the Lord Jesus comes back, neither of two things will happen:
      - (1) heaven and earth shall not pass away
      - (2) one jot or tittle shall not pass out of God’s law
    - d) but if one of them did, it would not be the least matter passing out of God’s law
- D. We are presently engaged in a series of studies through The Ten Commandments. We need to know what we should think of them now that we no longer are in the days of the Old Covenant, but are in the days of the blessed New Covenant. We need to know how The Ten Commandments apply to us today, how we are to use them.
- E. The Lord Jesus defended The Ten Commandments from the corrupt interpretations that the scribes and Pharisees had been teaching the people
  1. v. 21 that the problem with breaking the commandment “Thou shalt not kill” was that that it subjects a person to judgment by men, when the much more important matter is that breaking the commandment subjects a person to the judgment of God
  2. v. 27 that the commandment “Thou shalt not commit adultery”
    - a) applied only to the outward act, when truly it applies also to the lust of the heart
    - b) could be avoided by the use of divorce, when truly divorce is morally justified only in certain cases

- F. The Lord Jesus also addressed a corrupt teaching of the scribes and Pharisees that is the matter of one of The Ten Commandments, even though it is not quoted - verse 33 ff
  - 1. the matter is that of the third commandment
  - 2. it is that aspect of the third commandment that recognizes a person cannot avoid taking the name of the Lord in vain by pretending to swear by something else, since all oaths appeal to God, even if the person doesn't say so
- G. The Lord Jesus addressed a corruption of law, that was being used to justify revenge and vindictiveness v. 38 ff
- H. The Lord Jesus corrected a faulty implication of the commandment "love thy neighbor as thyself" v. 43 ff
  - 1. recall how Jesus said this is one of the two great commandments, and upon those two hang all the law and the prophets
  - 2. the scribes and Pharisees taught that "love your neighbor" implies "hate your enemy;" and so justified such hatred
  - 3. our Lord Jesus corrected that; the true implication of "love your neighbor" is not "hate your enemy," but "love your enemy"
- I. In none of these examples did our Lord Jesus destroy the morality commanded in the law and the prophets; instead, He fulfilled it; He upheld it; He defended it; He agreed with it

## APPLICATION

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law and the prophets  
 -in His works done as foretold in the prophets, and  
 -in His interpretation of the morality commanded in the law.

What about The Ten Commandments, then?

They, along with all the morality commanded in the law and the prophets, are still in full force. They still have all the power they had for convicting sinners of their sins, and their need for the Savior. They still have all the power they had for telling us how glorious is our Savior's righteousness, in having lived perfectly to such a perfect standard. They still have all the power they had for showing us what is the righteous way to live, that pleases the Lord.

Angie - Prelude "As the Deer"

Rita - Trinity 667 "To God Be the Glory" - Alex lead

Haven - Trinity 147 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Rita - Trinity 195 "Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed?"

Jeremiah - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Matthew 1:18-25

Andrew - Scripture Reading - Matthew 2:1-23

Roel - Congregational Prayer

Lord's Supper - Matthew 27:33-35; Mark 15:27-28

## CONCLUSION

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law and the prophets  
-in His works done as foretold in the prophets,  
-in His interpretation of the morality commanded in the law, and

### III. In His Description of the Nature of the Law - Mt 5:18

- A. No commandment addressing moral right and wrong will lose any of its force with the coming of Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ, to bring in the New Covenant
  - 1. One jot or one tittle - meaning neither the smallest letter nor even the smallest parts of a letter
- B. Nothing that is a matter of right and wrong is inconsequential to God, neither as expressed in the Old Testament law, nor as taught by the Lord Jesus in fulfillment of that law
  - 1.
- C. The Lord Jesus said that nothing will pass from the law till all is fulfilled
- D. See how our Lord Jesus put this another way on another occasion: Luke 16:17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.
- E.

### IV. In His Stern Warnings About Observance of the Law

- A.

The Lord Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets.

In every case where Matthew records that Jesus “fulfilled” something from the law and the prophets, he means that what the law and the prophets said corresponds to what Jesus is and what He did and what was done to Him.

That Jesus fulfilled the things written in the law and the prophets does not mean that something was written in the scriptures, then when Jesus came He did what was not like what the law and the prophets said.

So, the commands of Jesus are not unlike those found in the law and the prophets. Instead, they are like those. The doctrine of Jesus is unlike the doctrine of the scribes and Pharisees, not unlike the doctrine of Moses and the prophets.

It has delighted me for years to read how our Lord Jesus said to us, “Do not think this.”

As a very practical application of that: parents, tell your children that sometimes! “Don’t think like that.”

Or tell them, “Don’t say that.” “Don’t ever say that again.”

We flawed, imperfect people need to be told what to think.

Jesus did not think it a bad teaching method to tell His learners what to think.

Sometimes He did teach by asking questions, asking what someone thought.

But He also taught by simply telling people what not to think, and what to think.

As we are raising our children, we should view them as people who often don’t know what to think.

They are ignorant about many things, and mistaken about many other things. They don’t know anything about the truth in some areas; in other areas, what they think is true actually isn’t.

Just before the Lord Jesus came, there was something true about all the scripture:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

When the Lord Jesus came, and began to teach in person, and to proclaim the kingdom of God, it was still true of all scripture. When the Lord Jesus had died for our sins on the cross, had been buried, and, on the third day, had risen from the dead, it was still true of all scripture. When He had ascended to the throne of heaven, at the right hand of God the Father; when He had poured out the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, it was still true. And today, that is still true of all the scripture.

Luke 16:16-17 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. 17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

The heavens and the earth are going to endure until the Lord Jesus comes back.

The law and the prophets also are going to endure until the Lord Jesus comes back.

But, if one were going to be destroyed before then, it would be the heavens and the earth, not the law and the prophets.

CONCLUSION

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Matthew 1:20-23 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which is translated, "God with us."

Matthew 2:13-15 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." 14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON."

Matthew 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Matthew 4:12-16 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 15 "THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES: 16 THE PEOPLE WHO SAT IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT, AND UPON THOSE WHO SAT IN THE REGION AND SHADOW OF DEATH LIGHT HAS DAWNED."

Matthew 8:16-17 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND BORE OUR SICKNESSES."

Matthew 12:15-21 But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. 16 Yet He warned them not to make Him known, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 18 "BEHOLD! MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN, MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL IS WELL PLEASED! I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE WILL DECLARE JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES. 19 HE WILL NOT QUARREL NOR CRY OUT, NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS. 20 A BRUISED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK, AND SMOKING FLAX HE WILL NOT QUENCH, TILL HE SENDS FORTH JUSTICE TO VICTORY; 21 AND IN HIS NAME GENTILES WILL TRUST."

Matthew 13:34-35 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I

WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS KEPT SECRET FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."

Matthew 21:1-5 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." 4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 5 "TELL THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, LOWLY, AND SITTING ON A DONKEY, A COLT, THE FOAL OF A DONKEY.' "

Matthew 26:53-56 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? 54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" 55 In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. 56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Matthew 27:3-10 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" 5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. 6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." 7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. 8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "AND THEY TOOK THE THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER, THE VALUE OF HIM WHO WAS PRICED, whom they of the children of Israel priced, 10 AND GAVE THEM FOR THE POTTER'S FIELD, AS THE LORD DIRECTED ME."

Matthew 27:35 Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "THEY DIVIDED MY GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS."

Mark 15:28 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS."

Luke 4:21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 21:22 For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Luke 24:44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

John 12:38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?"



John 13:18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS BREAD WITH ME HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.'

John 15:25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

John 19:24 They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "THEY DIVIDED MY GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS." Therefore the soldiers did these things.

John 19:36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "NOT ONE OF HIS BONES SHALL BE BROKEN."

Acts 1:16 "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;

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To destroy. In the physical sense, the word signifies to loose, dissolve, pull to pieces (as a bridge, wall, house), and is applied to the temple in Mat\_26:61 and Mat\_24:2 ('throw down'), to the body regarded as a house in 1Co\_5:1, and is figuratively used in Rom\_14:20 and Act\_5:38 f. ('come to nought' and 'overcome'). So in Gal\_2:18, Paul uses this word to describe Peter as having (so to speak) pulled down an old building as useless, and now gone to building it up again. In like manner here the image is most probably that of a building. There is no other example in N. T. of this precise use—pulling down, abrogating, a law—but it is found in 2Ma\_2:22, and in the classics (Grimm). A less intensive form of the same verb is employed in Mat\_5:19 ('break'), where it is contrasted with 'do,' and refers to the practical setting aside of the law in men's action, while here the reference is rather to the theoretical setting aside in our Lord's teaching.

This phrase was frequently employed to denote the entire Scriptures (i. e., the O. T.), the 'law' being the five books of Moses, and 'the prophets' the remainder.

### **In what sense a new commandment?**

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Matthew 27:33-35 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, 34 they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink. 35 Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "THEY DIVIDED MY GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS."

Mark 15:27-28 With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. 28 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS."