

Matthew 5:17-20

Christ Fulfilling the Law and Prophets

Introduction:

It is here that the Lord puts His seal of authority on the whole of the Old Testament Scriptures. The Old Testament Law and the foretelling and forth telling of the Prophets are completely sanctioned by the Son of God. A true imprimatur without question is supported by the Holy Son of God. The New Testament Scriptures receive its imprimatur also by the Son as He transfers this authority to the Apostles who wrote the New Testament. There were however some who were not apostles such as Luke who was the companion of Paul and Mark who was the companion of Peter. Their inspiration came directly from the Holy Spirit and indirectly from Paul and Peter. Jesus said to His apostles when the Spirit comes, He will guide you unto all truth and will disclose to you the revelation of Christ. (John 16:12-15) Of course the apostle Paul makes this claim emphatic that his epistles were not his opinion or philosophical ideas but were indeed the revelation of Jesus Christ. Gal. 1:12

I. Christ Approves the Inspiration of the Old Testament

A. Two Fundamental Propositions:

1. Our Lord's teaching ministry is in complete harmony with the Old Testament Scriptures, and in fact He has come into this world to fulfill all that the Law (Pentateuch) and the rest of the Old Testament, called the Prophets.
2. Our Lord's teaching is in complete disharmony and is a complete contradiction of the teaching of the Pharisees and Scribes.

B. Not Merely a Positive Thinker

1. He criticized false doctrine
2. Why did Jesus expose false teaching?
3. Our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees – v.20 cf. Luke 19:10

C. Heresy: No need for the moral Law today.

D. Defining the Law:

1. Moral Law – Matt. 22:34-40
2. The Judicial Law - Exodus
3. Ceremonial Law – Leviticus Turn To: Hebrew 10:1-20

E. What exactly is our Lord's teaching about the Law and the Prophets? V. 18,20

1. God's Law is absolute, it can never be changed or even modified
2. God's Law and the Prophets will culminate in the person of Christ.

II. Christ Fulfills the Law and Prophets

A. Specific Laws Christ fulfills and the prophetic word of the Prophets:

1. The Incarnation – Gal. 4:4
2. The temptation by Satan – Mat.4:1-4
3. Feast Days – John 7:37-38
4. Death on the cross – Luke 23:28; Rom. 8:2-4

B. The Christian's regeneration

1. The Law of God is written on our hearts – Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:6-12
2. The law of God is within us for the good of our sanctification.

C. The Christian's relationship to the Law:

1. The Christian is not under the Law in the sense that the Law is a covenant of works - Gal. 3:10-13; 3:24,25
2. The Christian who is saved by grace does not now live apart from the Law – Rom. 6:1, 2 Note. 5:19