

Series: Sermon on the Mount

Lesson: #12

Title: Verily I Say

Scripture: Matthew 5: 17, 18

Date: 8-2-2009

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, NJ

Matthew 5: 17: Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets.

Yet, the Pharisees and the scribes claimed to be zealous for the law and the prophets. They accused the Lord Jesus of being against the law and the prophets. Christ assures us that he came not for the purpose of destroying the law or the prophets, but to fulfill.

Matthew 5: 18: For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

I. THE WORD OF THE LORD JESUS IS THE SURE WORD OF PROMISE.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only one who ever said, "Verily, I say unto you." He is the only one who *could* use this word. The word "Verily" means "Amen." It means faithful and true, is the name of the Lord Jesus, the Christ, the God-Man Mediator.

Revelation 3: 14: And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

In Matthew 5: 18, the Amen, of whom the law and the prophets were given to bear witness, in whom the law has its fulfillment, its end, says, "Amen, I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

What our Lord says in Matthew 5: 18 by saying, "Verily I say unto you" is very much akin to:

Hebrews 6: 13: For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, 14: Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Amen, is giving his oath, by himself because he can swear by no greater, that he is the One whom God the Father entrusted with the work of establishing the law, to declare him just and the Justifier of all who believe.

Isaiah 42:21: The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make *it* honourable.

II. EVERYTHING GIVEN IN THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS IN TIME WAS WRITTEN TO GLORIFY THE PERSON AND WORK CHRIST PROMISED TO FINISH FROM ETERNITY.

Christ is the Verily, the Amen, the faithful and true witness, who is the beginning of the creation of God. Not that he was created. But meaning, the creation of God began not with the creation of everything that was made, but with the Word of the everlasting covenant.

John 1: 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2: The same was in the beginning with God.

The covenant promises of God preceded the creation of anything that was made. What promises are these?

Ephesians 1: 3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

2 Corinthians 1:20: For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

When the Spirit of God says:

John 1: 3: All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4: In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Everything that was made was made, framed, on the promises made in and by the Amen, the Son of God, the Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ in order to glorify what he would accomplish. Not only were all things created from the Word, by the Word and for him, but all things are upheld by his covenant Word of Power. When the LORD gave Moses the law he gave the pattern which would glorify the promises made in the Amen. The Hebrew letter was written to declare that Christ is the Substance foreshadowed in that old covenant law. The letter begins this way:

Hebrews 1: 1: God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3: Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

In creation all the scriptures, the word of God, the law of God, that which is spoken in the prophets was given to glorify the Verily, I Say in whom all the promises of God are yea, and Amen.

Romans 3: 20: Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. 21: But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22: Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24: Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26: To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Galatians 3: 21: *Is* the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. 22: But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. 23: But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24: Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto

Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25: But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26: For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Not only was the Word in the beginning, not only were the worlds framed in pattern to glorify his person and work, not only did the prophets bear witness of the Word as they wrote the scriptures, not only was the furnishings and ceremonies of the old covenant patterned after the person and work of the Amen, but John said:

John 1: 14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Galatians 4:4: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5: To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Hebrews 10: 10: By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Matthew 5: 17: Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18: For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

III. HOLY GOD REQUIRES THAT EVERY JOT AND EVERY TITTLE OF THE LAW BE PERFORMED IN THE PERFECTION OF HOLINESS BY EVERY ONE WHO ENTERS INTO HIS PRESENCE.

How can that be with sinners such as we are? He fulfilled the righteousness of the law. By the work of the Spirit his redeemed are created anew as he speaks the everlasting covenant--Verily I Say--into the hearts of his people.

Romans 8: 2: For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Believers are constrained by the greatest, most powerful law of all.

The law of the Spirit
The law of the Spirit of life
The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made us the willing bond-servants of Christ Jesus the Righteous. We are under the law of Christ. Being under the law of liberty is being under the power of our Liberator, Christ Jesus.

The prophets bore witness of this very word:

Isaiah 65: 16: That he who blesseth himself...

He who rejoices and glories that he is a new creature, that all God's providence is for his good, and that all the grace of God is freely given to him

Isaiah 65: 16: That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth;

That is, that he should glory in the Amen--the Verily I Say-- the Amen, the Faithful and True, the One in whom all the promises are yea and Amen.

Isaiah 65: 16:...and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth;

That is we vow that all our works are finished by Christ the Amen, and we rest in his everlasting covenant the Amen. As David did when he said, 2 Samuel 23:5...he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things*, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire

Isaiah 65: 16:...because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes.
17: For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Galatians 6:15: For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Romans 3: 31: Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.