**April 28, 2019 “Christ and the Law, Pt 2” Matthew 5:17-20**

When Jesus came on the scene, He sparked a whole new way of looking at how mankind is to live his life in relationship to the God to whom he, man, would give an account for his life. For example, the leaders of the Jews in Jesus’ day, had perverted the Law of God into a convoluted maze of rules and regulations. No Jewish person could escape the burdens placed on them by the so-called “teachers of the Law”. So, when Jesus came on the scene, those who were listening to Him preach and teach were questioning whether He was going to lay on them another burden or if He was going to let the light of the Word shine on them in a new and fresh way? How was He going to address the Law of God? Was He going to uphold it or reject it?

Jesus answers those questions in our text for today found in Matthew 5:17-20.

Note there are four distinct areas He addressed in this short passage

1. Do not think I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets
   1. He makes it quite clear that this is not His intention
   2. He came to fulfill all that God has promised
2. Heaven and earth will pass away before the Law of God is accomplished or fulfilled
   1. He is addressing the unchangeableness of the Word of God
   2. He also is defending the infallibility of God’s Word
3. Whoever annuls one of the least of these commandments
   1. We cannot pick and choose what we want to hear and obey from the Word
4. Unless your righteousness surpasses
   1. God has a standard of perfection and it is not going to change

Why are these things important for us to know? Unless you have been living in a cave for the last decade or so, I would think that you, like me, have been in a state of shock, coupled with mourning, over the state of morality in our elected officials and unelected bureaucrats over the obvious contempt they have for the laws of this nation. How many times have we not heard in the past few years the statement from those in authority state that they will not enforce laws of which they are not in agreement?

Not only am I in a state of mourning over their actions, but I am also in a state of mourning over the so-called church leaders of today who are embracing a spirit of lawlessness as well. Sexual perversion or sexual immorality is no longer a disqualification for ministry. Doctrinal truths like the inerrancy of Scripture are no longer taught because we have some passages that just “don’t fit well into today’s society” (Jude 4). If there is one thing that should make us sick to our stomachs doctrinally, it should be when people take the grace of God and turn it into “a license to sin… willfully”.

The Bible never teaches us that grace frees us from the responsibility to live godly lives.

1. Three aspects of the Law as found in the O.T.
   1. 10 commandments
      1. The moral Law of God
   2. Judicial Law of God
      1. Pertained to the Jewish nation to set them apart from other nations
         1. Dietary laws
         2. Clothing laws
   3. Ceremonial Law
      1. Sacrificial laws
         1. Burnt offerings
         2. Grain offerings
         3. Feast of weeks, Passover… etc.
   4. Note
      1. Two of these laws were fulfilled in Christ
         1. Judicial law as a separate people
            1. Galatians 3:26-29
         2. Ceremonial law
            1. See the book of Hebrews
2. Moral Law of God has never changed
   1. Why?
      1. Exodus 20:1
         1. God spake all these words saying
            1. He is the authority
      2. Affirmed by the prophets
         1. Over and over again in the O.T.
         2. Prophets exhorted the people to put away their idols
            1. “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me”
3. Matthew 5:19… whoever annuls the least of these commandments
   1. What does annul mean?
      1. “to loose, release, or nullify or to destroy”
      2. Note the correlation to Matthew 5:17
         1. I did not come to “abolish”
            1. Kataluo… “utterly destroy” in the Greek
   2. “I came to fulfill the Law”
      1. Jesus kept the Law of God completely
   3. Least of these
      1. Jews divided the laws into two categories
         1. Positive… 248
         2. Negative… 365, one for each day
      2. Matthew 22:34-40
         1. Why do you think the Pharisees asked Him this question?
            1. They had endless debates on greater and lesser commandments
         2. Jesus clarifies the commandments
            1. Greater and smaller
            2. The first and greatest

Love the Lord…

Relates to the first three

No other gods before Me

No graven images

Do not take the name of the Lord in vain

* + - * 1. Smaller

Relates to the last 6

Father and mother

Murder

Adultery

Stealing

Lying

Coveting

* 1. What about the 4th commandment
     1. I would refer you to Hebrews 4
        1. Christ is our Sabbath of rest

1. “Teaches others to do the same”
   1. We teach in two ways
      1. By what we say
         1. Matthew 12:33-37
      2. By what we do
         1. Matthew 7:15-20
2. Question… Did the Cross end our obligation to the moral Law of God?
   1. Answer… absolutely not
      1. Colossians 2:14
         1. What was nailed to the Cross?
            1. The certificate of debt…
            2. The penalty of our sins was nailed to the Cross with Christ
      2. Romans 7:14-16
         1. Law is spiritual
         2. Sin dwells in me
         3. Law is good… pointing this out
      3. Romans 7:21-22
         1. I delight in the Law of God in the inner man (KJV)
      4. Romans 7:24
         1. What a wretched man am I
      5. Romans 7:25
         1. Who will set me free
            1. From this penalty?
      6. Romans 8:3-4

Two choices confront us today.

Do you want to be considered the least in the kingdom of God? All you have to do is treat the grace of God will a nonchalance.

Do you want to be great in the Kingdom of Heaven? Follow the moral Law of God in all you do.