

HIGHER GROUND

the Sermon on the Mount

Who Will Make It Into Heaven?

Matthew 5:17-20

JESUS AND THE LAW OF GOD

Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

What Most People Think...

My best efforts + God's forgiveness = heaven for me

1. **The Correction:** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets” 5:17a
2. **The Clarification:** “I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” 5:17b
3. **The Declaration:** “For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” 5:18
4. **The Application:** “Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” 5:19
5. **The Warning:** “For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” 5:20

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL?

The Law **DEMANDS** and the Gospel **DELIVERS**

WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF GOD'S LAW?

A **CURB** – the Law of God restrains gross outbreaks of sin – *1 Timothy 1:8-11*

A **MIRROR** – The Law of God shows humanity a reflection of their true condition before God – *Romans 3:20*

GASOLINE – The Law of God enflames sin – *Romans 5:20*

A **TUTOR** – The Law of God drives humans to despair and directs us to a Savior – *Galatians 3:23-24*

A **PORTRAIT** – the Law of God shows us a Christ-like life – *Matthew 5:17*

HOW DID JESUS 'FULFILL' THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS?

- Jesus fulfilled *the Moral Law of God* by perfectly living out all of its righteous demands every moment of His life.
- Jesus fulfilled *the Ceremonial Law of God* by offering Himself as the ultimate Passover Lamb, slaughtered for the wrongdoings of the people.
- Jesus fulfilled *the Prophets* by coming as the Promised Messiah, Suffering Servant of God, and Reigning King.
- Jesus fulfilled *'the Law and the Prophets'*—the whole of the Old Testament—by fulfilling all the types and shadows presented in those scriptures.
- Jesus fulfilled *'the Law and the Prophets'* by teaching the Old Testament as it was meant to be taught.

WHO WILL MAKE IT INTO HEAVEN?

Those who share Jesus' elevated view of the Law of God

Those who are humble enough to admit that they haven't lived up to the high demands of God's Law.

Those who understand that Jesus was the Only One to ever fully keep God's Law

Those who see Jesus as their only hope for ever being righteous, and who receive by faith HIS righteousness offered as a gift

BIBLE READING PLAN

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Genesis 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: Genesis 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: Genesis 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: Genesis 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: Genesis 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: Genesis 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: Genesis 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Genesis 14 |

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