

**ACCM**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021. **Topic: Foundation for the Kingdom**

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS)**

**Matt 5:17-20**

**INTRODUCTION: ARE THE LAWS AND PROPHETS STILL RELEVANT?** It is often the norm for revolutionary leaders to break ties with the past and veer off in a different direction from tradition. Jesus, although deviated from tradition but stayed with the past. This is a sure sign that He was on earth to continue the plans of God and to fulfil God’s ultimate plans for humanity. He upheld the laws and the prophets by His teachings and his behavior. He attended the festivals, paid the requisite taxes and rebuked the leaders where they twisted the laws. He showed that He came to fulfil the laws and the prophets. He said heaven and earth may pass away but the smallest letter or the smallest stroke of the Hebrew alphabet as it relates to the law will not pass until all is fulfilled. One of the biggest controversies in the New Testament church is the law and the prophets. Some have twisted the laws to their benefit, others have antiquated the laws and made them the relics of our time. Some on the other hand have adopted a pick a choose approach to it. This approach of some have rendered the laws and the prophets irrelevant to many churches of our days.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. What is the law and the prophets? Luke 16:16, Acts 13:14-15, Act 24:14, Matt 22:34-40, Matt 19:16-20, Exodus 20-31, Leviticus, Part of Numbers and Deuteronomy.
2. Did Jesus come to destroy the law and the prophets? Rom 3:21, Matt 5:17
3. Why did Jesus come to fulfil the law**? If Jesus had downplayed the law, He would have been unqualified to die in our place.** Lev 22:19-21, Ex 12:5a, I Pet 1:19
4. When did Jesus fulfill the law? John 19:30, Rom 10:4
5. Are the Ten Commandments the only laws on which God intends us to run our lives? **The entire scripture is the law of God**. **Gen 8:22, Luke 6:38, Prov 12:24, 22:29, 7:23-27, II Tim 3:16-17**

The entire body of the law is found in Exodus 20-31, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy although its essence is embodied in the Ten Commandments (Bible Commentary by William Macdonald)

The law was not given as a means of salvation Acts 13:39, Rom 3:20a, Gal 2:16, 21, 3:11.

The law was designed to show people their sinfulness. Rom 3:20b, 5:20, 7:7, Gal 3:19

There is a difference between the traditions of men and the laws of the bible. Many of the Scribes and Pharisees were adhering to traditions and taking them for the laws and the prophet. Mark 7:7-13

As we go into this discussion, I want to caution everyone here. Let us sit more on the spirit than on the letter. The world appears to have been more confused by the writings of Apostle Paul on grace, law and liberty. These are great revelations if we allow the Holy Spirit to help us. Apostle peter referred to some of Apostle Paul’s writing in this manner in **II Pet 3:15-16**. *15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*

I have heard many people say with Jesus’ death on the cross we are completely covered and we have no law to keep any more. Well, if that is true let us see what elder Peter wrote to the church in in **II Pet 3:14.** *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;*

Peter should not write this if the death of Jesus on the cross makes it such that we need to do nothing to stay blameless.

**Some examples of twisted Old Testament laws by the Scribes and Pharisees**

1. Matt 7:12 9 **(Lev 19:18), Gal 5:14.**
2. Matt 22:36-40 **(Deut 6:5)**
3. Matt 12:1-3 **(Deut 23:25, Exo. 20:8-11)**
4. The law of adultery which Christ debunked: John 8:1-11 **(Lev 20:10, Deut 22:22)**
5. Another instance where the Jesus showed them how they were twisting the law is in **Mark 7:7-13**