

You and the Old Testament

Matthew 5:17-20

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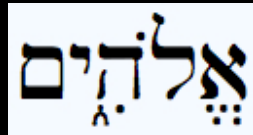
Matthew 5:17-20

“(Jesus says,) ‘Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps them and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.’”

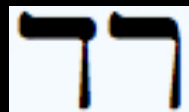
3 imperatives re: the Scriptures

1. Understand Christ as the fulfillment of the Old Testament (v. 17).
 - The Old Testament testifies of Christ.
 - The Old Testament leads us to Christ.

“...the smallest letter or stroke...”



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3 imperatives re: the Scriptures

1. Understand Christ as the fulfillment of the Old Testament (v. 17).
2. Embrace Christ's view of the Scriptures (v. 18).

Views of Scripture

View of Scripture	Example statements taken from real churches
High	"We teach that the Word of God is...verbally inspired in <u>every word</u> , absolutely <u>inerrant</u> in the original documents, infallible, and God-breathed."
Moderate	"We believe that the Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, is the <u>inspired</u> and <u>infallible</u> Word of God."
Low	"The church confesses the Scriptures to be the Word of God written, <u>witnessing to</u> God's self-revelation."

3 imperatives re: the Scriptures

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2. Embrace Christ's view of the Scriptures (v. 18).
3. Submit to Christ's command to obey the Scriptures (vv. 19-20).

"Yes, but..." syndrome examples

"Yes, that's what the Bible says, but _____..."

- *"...in my experience..."*
- *"...I had a bad experience in the past, so I think I don't have to obey that command."*
- *"...I'm scared, so I won't obey."*
- *"...I don't feel that would be practical."*
- *"...I think..."*

The scribes and the Pharisees

- Matthew 15:3:

“Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?”

- Matthew 15:9

“In vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.”

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3. Submit to Christ's command to obey the Scriptures (vv. 19-20).