

Taking God at His Word

Matthew 5:17-20

8-20-23

I. SCRIPTURE POINTS US TO CHRIST

Matthew 5:17-18 - "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. ¹⁸ 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."

1. Jesus validates Scripture.

2. Jesus fulfills Scripture.

II. SCRIPTURE POINTS OUT OUR FLAWS

Matthew 5:19-20 - "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. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

1. Scripture shows us who we are without Christ.

2. Scripture shows us how we should live in Christ.

Philippians 3:9-10 - "...and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead."

WE ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE OF CHRIST.

- **Our identity PRECEDES our actions.**
- **Our identity INFORMS our actions.**

GROWING DEEPER THIS WEEK

1. What from the message this week challenged you?
2. Jesus said that he did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it, does this change the way you view the Old Testament?
3. What are some teachings that some people disregard in Scripture today? How do Jesus' words in this passage help you view the teachings of Scripture.
4. The Pharisees were known for their obedience to the Law. Why was Jesus always correcting them? Is it possible to have a similar view of Scripture as the Pharisees? What is the danger of this?
5. Why do we need a righteousness that surpasses "that of the pharisees"? What does this reveal about us? What does this standard reveal about God?
6. Read Romans 3:21-22. How can we become righteous? What does this reveal about God?
7. Why is it important for us to understand our righteousness and identity without Christ?

Pray

8. Pray that God would remind us of who we are without Him.
9. Pray that God would give us opportunities to discuss what Christ has done for us in giving us His righteousness.