

## CHRISTIANS AND ... THE OLD TESTAMENT

Matthew 5:17-20

**This week's sermon discussed Jesus' instructions to his followers regarding the Old Testament.**

*Which do you think most churches/Christians spend more time studying: the Old Testament or the New Testament?*

*Have you ever heard Christians say they do not need to read the Old Testament? If so, what were some of their reasons?*

*Have you ever heard Christians (or others) state that they found the Old Testament hard to understand? If so, what, if anything, did they find challenging about it?*

**The sermon began with an illustration from the West Wing TV drama where the President and a talk show host were debating the applicability of Old Testament passages.**

*Have you ever heard anyone use the Old Testament to defend their position on issues such as homosexuality? If so, do you think that is valid?*

*If we look to the Old Testament to determine God's position on one particular issue what do we do with all the other issues it addresses (ie: stoning people who work on Saturday, not wearing different types of fabric at the same time, etc)?*

**One of the concluding challenges was to “look to the Old Testament for principles that apply in every culture for all time; be careful looking to the Old Testament for rules that apply in every culture for all time.”**

*What does this statement mean? Discuss?*

**Another of the concluding challenges was to “read and study the Old Testament.”**

*Is that something you would like to do?*

*What are some ways you could begin studying the Old Testament?*

*Is there anything the group could do together, throughout the week, to help each other who are trying to read the Old Testament?*