

How Jesus Completes Us

2024.01.07 Morning Sermon in Matthew 5:17–20

¹⁷“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Main idea: Jesus, the great Fulfiller of all Scripture, makes to whom the kingdom already belongs fit for entrance to the kingdom of heaven by completing His sanctifying work in them.

Introduction: Is the righteousness that is in Jesus different from the righteousness that is in the Old Testament, especially the righteousness that is in the commandments of the law?

1. Jesus the Great Fulfiller of Scripture, v17–18
 1. “Law or Prophets” an abbreviation of the Hebrew Bible as a whole. It’s His Bible (cf. 1Pet 1:11)!
 2. Fulfillment of prediction, fulfillment of purpose, fulfillment of perfection. It is all about Him (cf. Luk 24:27; Ac 17:2–3)
 3. New heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells. (cf. Ps 102:26; Is 34:4, 51:6, 51:16, 65:17, 66:22)
 4. Every stroke of the pen in the entire Old Testament is about Jesus. Those who try to have it without Him do not have it at all. Those who have Him find all of it theirs, and all of it rich in Him.
2. Jesus the Fulfiller in our Justification, v17
 1. Jesus alone succeeds, where everyone else can only fail. Our standing with God could not be in Adam, in Abraham, in Moses, in David, and certainly not in ourselves. Israel’s ceremonies could not forgive sin, bring finally/actually into heaven (Deut 18:15–19; Heb 7:12). Israel as a nation could not be a blessed kingdom even for themselves, let alone the nations (Ac 2:29–36).
 2. Your right standing with God can only be by Who Jesus is and what Jesus has done. Faith alone!
3. Jesus the Fulfiller in our Sanctification, v19
 1. Though believers in this life have not yet entered the kingdom (v20), they already have the kingdom (v3, 10).
 2. They must take a kingdom view of “least” and “greatest” (cf. 20:25–28, 23:1–12; Heb 13:7–17).

3. Part of that kingdom view includes obedience to the commandments of the moral law and teaching others to obey those commandments (cf. v48).
 1. First table by Christ's ascension in which we draw near: glorious in heaven, simple on earth (no sacrifice, no calendar, reverent, confident; read, sing, pray, hear preaching, sacraments, congregational vows).
 2. Second table: the same Jesus Who fulfilled the law in our justification by what He did continues fulfilling it in our sanctification by what He carries us to do. His view of the law (cf. Ps 119:96, Heb 4:11–13) very different from the scribes (proud of what they know) and Pharisees (proud of what they do).
4. Jesus the Fulfiller in our Glorification, v20
 1. Even in the believer's sanctification, the righteousness of his character and conduct is "exceeding" that of the scribes and Pharisees.
 2. But perfect righteousness is required to enter (cf. v8, Heb 12:14, 1Jn 3:2).
 3. He will be faithful to complete it at the last! But, also, those who are united to Him will be pursuing His agenda for the rest of their lives (cf. 2Th 2:13–17, Heb 12:14, 1Jn 3:3).

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Conclusion: Jesus is a complete Savior and a complete Fulfiller. If you are His, then His work in you includes sustaining and growing you in keeping His commandments.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew 5 verse 17 through 20. Let us be careful how we hear. For these are the words of god. Do not think that i came to destroy. The law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy. But to fulfill. For assuredly. I say to you. Till heaven and earth pass away.

One shot. On one tittle. Well, by no means pass from the law. Till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore, breaks, one of the least of these commandments. And teaches men. So Shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches them. He shall be called great.

And the kingdom of heaven. For, i say to you. That unless your righteousness exceeds, the righteousness of the scribes and pharisees, you will, by no means. Enter the

kingdom. Of heaven. And then this reading of gods. Inspired and inherentworth. We look to him in faith as his word says, he will do.

To add his blessing to it. Please be seated.

God has not surprised by antinomianism. It's a big long word. Basically means those in the churches who are against the law of god. Who are against doing the commandments. Of his moral law, as the lord will spend the Rest of the chapter. Teaching us very carefully. Very intensely to do the commandments.

Those who are against doing the commandments and those who are against teaching the commandments, God is not surprised by antinomianism, not just Because he knows the end from the beginning and everything in between. But because it comes from our flesh. The law is christ's own law. The commandments are christ's own commandments.

And god's marvelous, providence, to us, we start into this A second section the longer section. Of. Matthew chapter 5 on the same day that he brings us to the second half. They're sorry. The first half of james chapter 2 In which he refers to this same law. The one that is summarized as we heard in our Leviticus preaching, not Too many weeks ago.

Uh, the second table of which is summarized, love your neighbor as yourself. And from the hands of jesus, and from the lips of jesus, We recognize the commandments of god, as the royal law, the law of the king, the law of his kingdom. Both telling us what he expects from us.

And accusing us. If we don't follow his commandments then we become judges with evil thoughts. We put ourselves in the place of what is right and what is wrong. And when we do that, We put ourselves against god's law. And to numbianism are being against God's law, is wanting to be a law into ourselves.

We are going to be ruled by something. We must be ruled by the commandments of the king but it is also the royal law. Because it describes the king. Jesus is not just obedient to the commandments so that his obedience can be counted for us. Jesus is obedient to the commandments.

Because he is the perfect and full revelation of the character of god. In one who has the full nature of the man. And so the royal law describes our king, And tells us the requirements, the law of his kingdom. And even is for us, isn't it? A description of what our great king is making us, which is why it's not only called the royal law, and what we just read from james, But it's also called the law of liberty.

The law that describes what christ is making us. Having freed us from our sin The law that describes what God has freed us to do and to keep and to be like, What a wonderful thing. Are the commandments of the lord jesus in the hands of the lord jesus

from the mouth of the lord jesus to the subjects of the lord jesus who are being made like the lord jesus.

But there might have been a question. After he had. Given them the Spoken to them the blessedness of those who belong to the kingdom and then turned you remember. Uh, In the last couple of weeks from speaking in the third person, about the blessed as A not hypothetical group, but a A group about which he was speaking to the second person.

Letting those disciples who had come up to him on the mountain know. Pronouncing upon them personally directly. That he was not speaking about the blessed only, he was speaking also to the blessed. To those who had him to those who he had given his spirit to give light to their minds and life to their hearts, that they would choose him over all of the rest of the world.

And that the world would not be too pleased with that. Even the world that uses his name. Even the, the world, that that has great festivals for his fame. Even that part of the world, that was On the bottom of the hill. And would persecute them for righteousness. Sake would persecute them for his sake.

Now, you take those two things that are put together. And you can see why he comes now to say, do not think that i came to destroy the law of the prophets. Because if righteousness sake is jesus is sake. And those who claim to know the law. And claim to do the law.

Even claim. We dare say to love the law. If they are the ones who are going to be persecuting jesus, which they are. For the next three years. And if they are the ones who are going to be persecuting the followers of jesus, Does that mean? That jesus is sake and the righteousness is sake.

That is jesus' sake. Is something other than Or opposed to. The righteousness that their hebrew bibles, the righteousness, that the holy scriptures that they had up until that point described Is jesus starting. And your religion. And the answer is no. The religion of god has always been. The religion that is in his son.

And now god has declared himself fully in his son and that which was in the law and the prophets and the writings Was always. About jesus. And so using that language law and profits and writings, you'll notice that you have law and law or profits or law, and profits.

In verse 17. The law and the prophets, and the writings are the three divisions of the The hebrew bible. One of you was In a couple of you were in my study recently and Um, You're looking at some 90 and Which is marvelously, the understanding of psalm 90 marvelously informed by that first law, a song of Moses, the man of god, And thinking about moses and his dwelling place.

At the beginning of the psalm and the the extraordinary amount of work that came to Moses's hands every day and we won't take all the time to talk about that. But as i flipped i was thinking okay, the law and we flipped through the, you know, put away the first five books and the prophets which includes the former profits.

Joshua. The second kings, except for Ruth and and the latter prophets, because i had him malachi and, you know, flipped past those To get to the writings. And especially the psalms Ruth is in the the writings that's why we skipped it. All of that just to help you get the feel for what he's talking about here is their bibles is the Hebrews scriptures.

And the law in the prophets and the writings was often just abbreviated the law and the prophets. And you'll notice this kind of narrowing through the passage. From the, the bible as a whole. At the time law profits and writings to law on the profits. And sometimes they just abbreviated the word of god and the law of god to raw.

A word that means fatherly instruction, but generally corresponding to the first five books Of the old testaments. Of the old testament and sometimes. Just that word law was used for the whole of the Old Testament, but you have law profits and writings law and profits law and then very specifically, then the commandments of the law.

Because even in genesis through Deuteronomy, There's a lot of narrative. There's a lot of promising. And of course, there are also the commandments and these are the That are. That are. Most often. Directly attacked man. Throwing off. The rule of god and his Christ. Has psalm 2 describes. And you remember the apostles?

Recognizing that the Nations raging and kings and peoples plotting in vain didn't just include the gentiles. Included the Jews. Represented by herit and the gentiles represented by pilot. And so forth. So jesus says, do not think. That i came to undo. Destroy. Get rid of. The bible. The old testament, what we would call the old testament.

In the least bit. Indeed, jesus is the great fulfiller of scripture which we'll see in verse 17 and 18 and then we'll come back and think about His fulfillment in our justification and will think. A little bit out of verse 17, but more generally, Thinking about jesus and his fulfillment of the scripture in our justification because what we have in verse 19 is really with respects to our sanctification.

It's a consideration from the viewpoint of heaven. Of those who are subjects or disciples of the kingdom, who are on earth. And who are in at different places in their maturity, the the work of christ in them as that different points of progress and what he is doing in them and some are lesser and some are greater.

Uh, some are examples whom we should follow and to who's teaching, we should listen and some even if they get put in a pulpit by men are exposed by their character and conduct and teaching as least. According to the eyes of heaven. And he tells us how to recognize them the lord.

Jesus. Very practically doesn't he helps us live in the church in this life. He's going to make the same point in a couple chapters time when he comes to those who are sheep and those who are wolves. And not listening to wolves and knowing them by their works. And that there will be those who knew about justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in christ alone, and taught about that in chapter 7, 21 and 22 who will say lord lord in your name.

Did we not in your name? Did we not in your name? Did we not? And he will say depart from me you workers of lawlessness or depart from me. I never knew you you workers of lawlessness or more literally translated there you workers without Talking jesus. You know, that the law is his And you'll love it for his own sake because he has done that work in you to make you love it.

And you know that the commandments are his. He is the great fulfiller of scripture. He's a fulfiller in our justification. He's a fulfiller in our sanctification. Sorry. We're just supposed to be giving you the headings and we preached a quarter of the third point, he's the fulfiller in our sanctification, and he's the fulfiller in our glorification verse 20, That, yes, the moment we have been brought to faith in christ.

We are subject to the kingdom. We belong to the kingdom. We have the kingdom already on earth. But we have not yet entered the kingdom and we are not yet fit. To enter the kingdom. Those whom he justified, he also glorified. Why? Well in part there in Romans 8 which we were just quoting so that god's purpose for then, that which his love has desired from before the foundation of the world.

His love has has desired not to to give you everything that pleases you from christ. It's to give you everything that pleases god in christ. That you would be conformed to the image of his son and every single one. Whom he justifies he will glorify. The righteousness will not only exceed that of the scribes and the Pharisees.

They're righteousness, will match. The righteousness of jesus, the son. And be a human perfect character and conduct That corresponds to their fathers perfect character and conduct which is where the rest of the teaching of chapter 5 is going. You'll notice that wonderful twist in verse 48 that wonderful twist on be holy for, i am holy, which the lord had commanded, his people who he had set apart as he brought them, when he brought them out of Egypt.

But now not be holy for. I am holy but You shall be perfect. As your father. Your father, whom you know, in the sun and have been adopted into the family, by the spirit, of sonship the spirit of the sun, applying the sun to you, by faith, so that you are joined to him.

And now you can call god father, and what our father, son and spirit doing their conforming. You to the only begotten son so that all of the adopted children will have

the character of christ, including the joy of christ. Will delight in our father. And to show forth his character.

And so that, which the antinomian sphere. That the law will be the succeedingly great burden. And that it will be pride rather than pleasure in god. What they fear is a law without christ, not the law itself. Not the commandments themselves. Not trying hard to do them, not talking much about them.

Those are not things to be feared. Those are things that belong to our god and particularly our god and savior, the lord jesus christ. For all of the bible. Then in the first place. Is about him. Jesus, the great fulfiller of scripture.

Do not think that i came to destroy the law or the prophets, i did not come to destroy. But to fulfill. Now this fulfillment this filling up. Uh, The word is actually. One that has a very To be redundant pun intended, full meaning Uh, jesus fulfills. Much of the scripture by way of prediction, whatever is in the old testament.

He fulfills it in a manner that corresponds to the type of literature, what the Lord is doing there in the Old Testament. And so, There are. There are predictions. Often what we would call prophecies in in kind of a narrower way. That were predictions about jesus. Who he is, whom he would reveal himself to be.

What he would do in his incarnation and in his earthly ministry, and in his atoning death, and in his resurrection and in his ascension and in his sitting on the throne of glorious, the right hand of majesty and in his poring out his spirit. And in what he would continue to do, by his spirit in his church, and in his gathering, in from all of the nations that which is a remnant from the nations and a remnant from israel.

To remnants together are a multitude that no man can count. That which you will do in the last day. When he has gathered. And not just gathered, but perfect it. Everyone for whom he came and died and rose again. And then comes vengeance and judgment. And anything that does not belong to the new heavens and the new earth in which righteousness, dwells his cast into the lake of fire.

Not just the devil and his angels. And all those who have suppressed the knowledge of god in unrighteousness, and a great multitude of him have suppressed the knowledge of christ in unrighteousness. Who even not only having seen, the creation have despised the creator. Many will have heard of the redeemer, but obeyed not the gospel.

They will be cast into the lake of fire. That was prepared for the devil in his angels. And even death itself will be cast into the lake of fire. Because that is the place. Where sin and sorrow and death and wrath will be forever and ever. But there is That new heavens and new earth.

And which righteousness dwells? And king jesus just as was looked forward to just as was predicted. Will have not only delivered his people. Gathered them to himself by the

work of his spirit who gives faith perfected them in himself to be like himself. And we will be with him.

Forever and ever. And so there's a fulfillment of prediction. This is where the bible was always going. And there are predictions of so many different parts of that. There's also the fulfillment of purpose You see? From a humanity. That was As hopeless and helpless after the flood as they were before the flood.

You know, before the flood you remember, god says. Of the world. The every intention of the thoughts of man's heart were only evil and that continually. And after the flood god says, never again will i do this. Not because noah who found grace in the eyes of yahua and Genesis 6:8 is so much better than what was before he says, we'll never do this again for man's heart is evil from his youth.

And all of humanity at that point is no end his family, it's after the flood. And yet that which he displayed in Noah and was a purpose, in Noah, in a small way in a in a slice of time. Jesus. Fulfills the purpose. All who are in him, all who are with him, are are carried through and protected from the wrath of god.

God knows how to reserve the ungodly for the day of judgment while. Reserving those who he is saving for salvation. And so, so Noah prefigured jesus and abraham was an idolater. And her of the chaldese, And yet, from among the The 70 nations that into which the lord split the people's of the earth scattered, the people's of the earth as there as their wickedness began ascending again.

Towards Babel. As it had increased in approaching the flood. Don't think of these as these ancient things from long ago. Oh, dear congregation, we have been deceived. We have been beguiled by the laws of our day. Don't, you know that when we were praying for the, for the churches under muslim tyranny, This past week and in the prayer meeting, we came to that section again and our time of intercession that tyranny is been for 1400 years.

Islam has dominated the middle east for the same length of time as from abraham to christ. The history of this world is short thus far. God sent his son quickly and soon. And he has been now applying the salvation of his son for two thousand years about as long as from Noah to christ.

So long has he been spreading the gospel of his son and gathering his church to himself? And so jesus here teaches us to read the bible as a book that has always been about him. Whether it's pride prediction or by purpose, he is the fulfillment of abraham and Isaac.

And jacob, he is the fulfillment of israel. A people gathered to god. Represented to god in a priest to offers a sacrifice, that consecrates by blood, those who would meet with god, Those among whom god dwells in his glory. A kingdom, a nation. Into, which all of the other kingdoms of the earth were to stream, and come under, and be ruled by.

And yet even david and solomon at their height. What modern historians because we use the word modern especially now to speak about those who live in an age, that is unmindful of god. Thinks of his world and thinks of history. From the standpoint of earth rather than a standpoint of heaven.

And they would say david in solomon were insignificant. But David and Solomon. We're sitting on a throne. That is a throne that would pass to christ. A throne that has not merely now. On a hill. In Palestine. But a throne that is, In the heaven. Of heavens, what we would call or what the bible calls what paul called visited there.

He didn't even know if he was in his body or not. The third heaven. And so you have fulfillment of prediction and fulfillment of purpose. But you see who the lord jesus says here. He's not going to be done fulfilling. When he ascends and takes a seat on the throne.

Because there's a fulfillment of perfection. And so, he says, do not think that i came to destroy the law of the prophets, i did not come to destroy but to fulfill For assuredly, i say to you till heaven and earth pass away. You know, this heavens and earth is still here.

One jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. The tiniest strokes of the pen. And writing Hebrew. Remember, this is before the the mazarites adding the vowel pointings and all that stuff to the hebrew, that's hundreds of years after jesus. He's describing here at the time.

What? He's describing is hebrew in? Which there was there was only the the main character letters. A yode is so tiny. I'll show it to you sometime. If? If you wish, you know, catch me in my study, come to the The 430 to 5 30 hour every week. I Uh, i receive anyone during those times or make an appointment or whatever.

Yoda is so small. It can sure it can sure mess some things up though, if you don't know it, it is. The other changes the tense of the verb. From perfect tense completed to the imperfect tense ongoing, whether we're talking about past present or future. And then a tittle is that stroke that sticks out.

It's it's even it's a half the size of a yod, which is the smallest letter by far. But it it changes a rath to a dalot. And if you get your R's and D's mixed up in school kid's, you are going to have some very interesting vocabulary and what you read and what you write.

What jesus is saying here is All of god's word. Is important and necessary and useful. This is here. Second Timothy 3, 16 and 17. All of god's word is important useful and necessary. Not the slightest stretch, i'll ever. Shall. Pass from it. Until all of, it has been fulfilled and the new heavens, and the new earth, and which righteousness, dwells has come.

Because all of it is about Jesus. All of it is about Jesus. And so, you remember, That wonderful conversation. You know. Very much enjoyed just taking a few minutes. Proclaiming. Jesus is the fulfiller of what's predicted and what's purpose. And now in how he is going to bring everything to its final perfection.

Bring everyone whom he saves. To his or to her. Final. Perfection. About how much better. You know, that wonderful Discussion on the road. To a mass. And which those two deer disciples. Perplexed by why Jesus isn't sad. And and they think it's because Jesus doesn't know what just happened.

But it's really because they don't know what just happened. Because I haven't read the Bible this way. They haven't read the Old Testament, this way. Some of you have perhaps grown up in, or we're saved later into Uh, A part of the church in which sadly the understanding of Christ from all the Scripture has, Has become.

Not a faded memory. They don't even remember it anymore. Some even who call themselves reformed? Well, Reform reform Baptist. But, Um, You know, when I came up in a church that was called Presbyterian, didn't really read the Old Testament this way or teach the Old Testament. This way, And so as as I came more and more into the reformed faith, I had to discover the doctrines of grace somewhere other than in my Presbyterian church, isn't that dreadful But suddenly, The whole Bible begins to open up.

To me. Oh the those reform. Baptist preachers that I valued very much because they taught the doctrines of grace that I hadn't heard and and in the beginning of beginning of that I would uh yeah I'd be wherever I was reading. And I would want to and you could look up their sermons by Bible reference, right?

And you'd want to hear a good sermon. Of it. And You know, I know many more preachers now. Could direct you to. But as always so discouraged whenever I was in the Old Testament, there's almost nothing there. Yeah, they'd preached 11 times on every verse of the new testament.

Never never these pass it Oh, my dear brothers and sisters, have you not discovered? That, the more you realize that the whole Bible is about Jesus, the more rich Genesis to Malachi has become to you. That in every part of it. It's either predicting something that Jesus does or presenting something for a, in a temporary way that Jesus fulfills in a permanent and final and full and glorious and heavenly way.

Or describing something. That even now still needs to happen. And Jesus is still doing it. They still gathering the nations to himself. Or in your own personal case. He who begun the work is still working in you. To will and to work. According to his good pleasure. And so you are able to work out to your own salvation with fear and trembling not just because it is he who works in you in your sanctification.

But he who began the work. Will also be faithful to complete it. In the day of christ, jesus. And your glorification. And you see how those things in philippians one and two are tied together. Just like here, they are tied together in verse 19. And in verse 20, Jesus, the great fulfiller of scripture this new heavens and New earth where the hope even.

In the old testament. Some 102 verse 26. Uh, which we have been to recently. As well as isaiah 34 and verse 4. But now coming into Starting next week. That section of isaiah. That is so full of gospel. That those who are too ignorant to see the gospel in the first 39 chapters?

Um, have for about 150 years or now said, oh, there must be two different authors of isaiah. And so, But this. This hoping for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness, dwells and the nations have been gathered in king, jesus is on the throne and his salvation has been applied in.

His people are perfected in righteousness, That's going to be crescendoing anticipation. And For that. And Isaiah 51, 16, 65 17. And Very, very close. Now at the end 66. 22. So, all about jesus. Jesus is the grateful filler of the scripture. His succeeded. In our justification. You. And i cannot be saved, or cannot be made right with god at all.

By a single thing that we have done. Christ is the only righteousness. Before god, the only righteous standing before god that a sinner. Can ever have. Everything you and i do even in our sanctification in this life. Is still so mixed with sin. It's genuinely good, but it is a because now it is from christ before you come to christ.

Nothing is even genuinely good. There is no heart's motivation, of of, genuine love to god or desire for his glory. In what we do until we come to christ, But even in that, which is genuinely good in the christian's life, Has. Right there with it, that which comes also from our flash.

Our best works. Our damnable by god. Our best works in this life. Deserve hell. For the sin that is mixed in with them. And if that's true of our best works, if even our righteousness says, as he puts it in isaiah are like filthy rags. Then what about those works?

That are pretty good, but not our best. And that our works that are not that good at all. And it works that are worse than usual. And our worst works. You see the scribe? Specialized in how well, he knew the law of god and what he meant by. Knowing the law of god was how carefully minutely he could interpret the boundaries.

To something that looked like a really high level of performance, but that was capable You see the scribe and the pharisee are best friends. Described as proud of how? Well, he knows the law of god. The Pharisee is proud of how well he keeps the law of god.

But in order for the Pharisee to be able to do anything, he needs that scribe to interpret it in such way that it can be kept.

And i can feel proud of myself by comparison to that other man and i can give lip service to god. And be brazen and proud even before heaven. I thank you. God, that i am not like these other men. Let you see the law. Is not there for us to examine it minutely.

To show god and others and feel about ourselves. How great we are. But the law examines us minutely. It is exceedingly broad. It goes to the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. It goes to our motivations and our desires. It goes to what we enjoy. And what we delight in.

Isn't that what Jesus is going to be doing to the particular commandments that he takes up in the rest of this chapter? Showing how it the law of god is not there for us to to examine it minutely, but it examines us And it flays us open as it were Has used the image in Hebrews, 4, 12.

Of god's word being living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. And describing a man, as if he were merely physical, you know, dividing between joints and marrow, soul, and spirit revealing, what the thoughts and intentions of our hearts Because we are already naked exposed before god to whom.

We will give an account in the last day. How could you or i think that any Anything we have ever thought, or desired or done any sincerity of worship, and he performance of obedience. Could ever arise. To meriting earning being righteous before. God We would be hopeless. We would be undone.

We would be like, Luther not understanding. That the gospel announcing the righteousness of god was announcing a righteousness that was for us,

But in every Part. Of all that the law requires. Of intention and motivation and heart and thought. Let alone word and deed. Jesus. Has perfectly. Okay. On my knees next to a child. Who has just told tales. About her sister. Or who has just Uh, dragged his feet in obeying his mother.

I can come to god. Right, come to the child first, explain to him from the law of god. All those things, i can come to god with that child. I can say here god, am i with my son? Who are no deserves wrath. I thank you that you have given your son.

Who never once spoke. Out of turn. About a sibling who never once dragged his feet. To disobey his mom, never once dishonored. Please. Give your spirit and the work of your spirit. To convince my son of these things that he might trust in Jesus and Jesus is obeying would be counted for him.

Christ's obedience christ's righteousness. Are the only hope. Of the center for a right standing before god jesus. The fulfiller. In our justification. Jesus. The one. Saved us. Adam couldn't save you. We fell in him. Abraham couldn't save you. He needed to believe in jesus. Moses, and his ceremonies. Couldn't save the israelites.

They had to be repeated year after year, you remember? Hebrews tells us they were supposed to take from that. There were supposed to learn from that that those bulls and those goats were not saving them. Remember Moses said, in Deuteronomy 18 that the lord was going to raise up another prophet from among them.

And that they should listen to him when he comes. And jesus does not come telling you to draw near to god. Through the blood of bulls and coats. And he does not come telling you to keep a feast of unleavened bread and a feast to Pentecost and a feast of tabernacles.

No, he comes and he He fulfills all of those things. Instead of bulls and goats you have jesus's blood instead of Aaron. And his sons, you have jesus himself. Instead of a tabernacle or a temple or an altar, you have jesus himself. And he the great high priest offers himself once for all and takes his blood through the holy of holies.

The actual, one of which the other was a copy And he ministers there through his once-for-all sacrifice. And he doesn't have an annual calendar. We'll we'll get to that in god's great providence. That's the the whole evening text. So, we'll, we'll We'll stop there. If you want to hear more about that come.

Come back, at least at 345. Um, come for singing too. At three. But there's a change of priesthood. Hebrews 7 verse 12 says, when there's a change of priesthood, there's a change of law. It's talking about the law that connected to the priesthood and now there is a law that connects to christ's priesthood.

There's also a change of profit. Deuteronomy 18, verse 15 through, 19. Israel as a nation. Could not be the blessed kingdom. They they failed continually Jesus is the fulfillment, king, david died, and his corpse rotted. And peter in the first, great sermon. And the christian church and the day of pentecost preaches.

Jesus is the king that you're looking for, not david. Jesus is the one whose flesh saw no corruption. Jesus is the one whom the lord calls lord. And whom david called, lord. And so just as he has succeeded, Where church and kingdom failed. More importantly, for each one of us.

He has succeeded where we have continually failed. Your right standing with god, can only be by who jesus is and what jesus has done. But in addition to your right standing before God, There is your right walking. With god. Is jesus as a complete savior. He does not justify without sanctifying.

And he is a complete fulfiller. He does not simply secure, he does not simply accomplish. The redemption of his people. He applies it. And so considered now verse 19. Whoever, therefore, breaks, one of the least. Of these commandments and teachers men's soul. Shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven.

But whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great. In the kingdom of heaven. You see the kingdom of heaven has? Its own assessment. Of what is happening on earth. And in particular, in this case, among the church that is on earth. These are. These are men among the church.

These are men under the Under the kingdom but they're not yet in the kingdom. There will not be. Verse 20 in the kingdom when we enter it at last, that kingdom, which we already possess. Don't forget the present tense in verse 3. And verse 10. There's is the kingdom of heaven.

There's is the kingdom of heaven. They already have it. They already possess it. All of these shall be. That are future. They shall be comforted, they shall inherit the earth. They shall be filled. They shall obtain mercy. Especially thinking of the last day they shall see god. They shall be called sons of god, and the display of the sons of god towards which the creation is groaning.

All of those future tenses, But if you believe in jesus christ in your justification, they're already is no condemnation for you. Who are in christ jesus. More happy, but not more secure. The glorified spirits in heaven. You are as justified now. As you will be. When you pass from this life, if you were a christian And there is the positional sanctification.

Declared called saints. You're called subjects of the kingdom. The kingdom is yours already. But then there is the progressive sanctification. In which you are hopefully moving. From lesser to greater. Otherwise, how can you know?

Yes, there are wheat, that are indistinguishable from tares. But that means that there are tares. Who think that they are wheat. There are in the church. Those who are so immature and ungodly and theologically confused. That they are indistinguishable from unbelievers. But jesus says, Don't go on a weed, finding mission.

Don't go on a tear finding mission to root them all out. Because you'll root them out with them. That That means that in his church, there are people who are not saved. They're not saved because in this visible church, There are people who are not saved. Because they are not described.

By those be attitudes christ, isn't Everything to them. The heaven to abandoned. All hope in themselves and hooked only in the lord jesus. And one of the telltale signs. Is they don't see his laws, the royal law. They don't see his laws, the law of liberty. They don't say, praise jesus.

The fulfiller and my justification and praise Jesus. The fulfiller and my sanctification. They have a partial Christ. Of course, a partial Christ. There's no Christ at all.

So believers. Who have the kingdom already verse 3 and 10. In this life have not yet entered the kingdom verse 20. And there is a least and the greatest along the way, the disciples didn't get it. I'm gonna have a couple of rebukes. We get further on in the passage, aren't we in chapter 20 and verses 25 to 28?

Which after 23 and versus one through 12, and he's going to talk about least in the kingdom and great distance and the kingdom and who are the least? Those who think that they are something and lorded over others. And who are the greatest. Those who are everyone's servants. Those who love their neighbors as themselves, those who prefer others to themselves.

Those who imitate the son of man. The son of man who doesn't lord it over. But first he comes to seek and save that, which is lost and sets himself as that example and that opening section of Philippians to your member. The one who humbled himself for the sake of others.

And then it says, let have this mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus. Here's an easy quiz children. Which disciple of Jesus is greater. The one whose mind is more like Jesus's or the one whose mind is less like Jesus's. Of the one whose mind is more like Jesus is, of course.

That's the greater one. And the kingdom of heaven. And so Jesus, the full, the fulfiller in our, sanctification leads us more and more to obey his commandments leads us, more and more to teach obediently. To his commandments, these are the ones. Whom he whom he gives us to be our elders, our preachers.

You see that in first Timothy 3 and Titus chapter 1, We're not only has the Lord, graciously worked in those men, such as they become, excellent. Husbands, what's an excellent husband? A husband who is more conformed to Christ. An excellent father was an excellent father. A father who is more conformed to Christ?

And God works in particular men. Whom he makes excellent husbands and excellent fathers and he makes them the elders who preach and teach shepherd in his church and then he comes and Hebrews 13 verse 7 through 17 showing how Jesus was willing to be humiliated and to suffer. You know, sometimes I think we take Hebrews 13 and we pluck verse 7 about the elders and we pluck verse 17.

About the elders. And we forget that there's an entire section about the greatest elder the Lord Jesus himself. And how we should be willing to be lowly. If we may be with him, Would you remember verse 7 in the beginning of that section, says, Remember your leaders who spoke the words to you?

The outcome of. Um, The outcome of whose faith, you know, and to follow them. What is the outcome of their faith? Well, part of their outcome of their faith. Is there obeying the commandments? First table of the law second table of the law. They're obeying. The commandments and teaching others.

To, to the same. Oh, for time's sake. We'll Um, not fill out that first table and Second table. Um, Except to say this. If you're understanding of, What Jesus does in conforming you to himself. Doesn't have the priority of the First four commandments over the last six commandments. Then you do not see his commandments the way that Jesus does.

Remember at multiple points. At multiple points. He teaches. That the first four commandments, the first great commandment is greater. But let's move then to the last Jesus. The fulfiller And our glorification. Jesus, the fulfiller in our glorification for, I say to you. That unless you're righteousness exceeds, The righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

You will by no means, enter the kingdom of heaven.

Even in a believer, sanctification. The righteousness of his character. And conduct is exceeding the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, isn't it? Because it's a righteousness that is not men using the bible. To declare themselves righteousness. Righteous But it is a righteousness of men. Hoping only in Jesus Because that's how God declares us righteous.

And so if you're hoping only in Jesus and then and then Jesus, Begins working by his spirit. His Uh, his life out in you. He is taking that which had been stoned. And making, what You remember back to John the baptizer's preaching? When the Pharisees and scribes came to him.

And they thought that they were pretty righteous and his was a baptism of repentance and he was surprised to see them, right? Because scribes and Pharisees didn't think they needed repentance. They thought their great job in life, was to get everybody else to be as good as they already were.

And he says you brewed a viper? Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? You don't actually think you deserve that. Why are you coming to a baptism of repentance? You remember what he said? That Jesus is able. To form from stone. Children of Abraham. Because he is the one who's not going to be baptizing with water.

But he's going to pour out his spirit. And as spirit is going to take hearts of stone. And turn them into hearts of flesh. Now, it hurts to have a heart of flesh. Part of stone doesn't really care that it's disobeying God. I mean it cares when someone beats on it and cares when it receives negative consequences, But if you're a believer, one of your great griefs, isn't it?

That you're now flesh responsive heart to god. Heart to christ is wounded by your not loving him. Like you want to not loving him like you should not loving your neighbor like you should not loving your brother like you should And it's like so many wounds. To your heart, that in that has been given love by christ's spirit to be a child of Abraham.

Trusting in jesus and walking with god and yet in this life still doing so very imperfectly. Some of you have been here long enough that you remember, Preaching through the abraham material and how imperfectly he obeyed. Even after he had, had that soft heart. And so you're righteousness is already exceeding.

The righteousness of the scribes and pharisees. It's not in the outward way of the letter, it's in the inward way of the spirit. It's not out of a attempt to advance yourself. But a response and thankfulness and love unto God. But it must not just exceed them in this way, it must be perfect.

As he's going to say at the end of the chapter, you shall be perfect just as your father in heaven. Is perfect. Just as we saw in verse 8, Blessed or the pure and heart for they shall see god. Well without holiness. No one will see him. Hebrews 12 verse 14.

Remember that wonderful section the beginning of the book of heat at the beginning of Hebrews chapter 12, We're just talking about the lord's fatherly discipline of us. And how part of coming into our sonship, to our father is hating, our remaining sin as much as he does. What is one of the great reasons that god hates the sin that remains in?

You dear believer? It's because as long as that sin remains in you, you will not be permitted to see him. And so, he's working in us to produce that peaceful fruit of righteousness. And he's telling us. To follow him. To pursue peace with all men and that holiness without which we won't see the lord.

What is one of the great displays of god's love to you now? You have the romans five, god demonstrates his own love in this while we were still sinners christ died for us. But one of the great displays of his love to you, now is the first john three behold, what manner of love The father has shown unto us that we, we should be called the children of god.

We who are not yet pure As though, he says, what we will be has, not yet appeared, but when he appears, we know that we will be like him. Why? Because we will see him as he is. So he has called a believer his child. It is justification and his positional sanctification, and he is working the family resemblance into that believer in his progressive.

Sanctification his progressive, increasing in obedience to God's law, god's commandments, and increasing and teaching others to obey god's commandments and he will finish that work. When he appears. We will be like him and we will be see him. And the one who has this, as his hope. What is first?

John three says purifies himself. Even as he is pure. So, don't become. Scribe and Pharisee squared. Don't read verse 20 and say well. Need righteousness. It's better than the scribes and the Pharisees and just heard a whole sermon about how if you're united to christ and walking with him, your righteousness is already better than the scribes and Pharisees take that scribes and Pharisees.

I can enter the kingdom. No. The one who hopes. To see jesus as he is. The one of hopes. To be pure. As he is pure. Purifies himself. As he is pure. Sanctification is the necessary consequence. Of hoping for glorification. Or to put it in other way. Those who hope to enter the kingdom, like verse 20 says, Are pursuing greatness.

Greatness of service. Greatness of obedience. Greatness. Of understanding and teaching and walking, according to the royal law, The law of liberty. The ten commandments the decalogue. These are rules of life for the christian. Because jesus. Is the life. That's the question. He's a complete savior. Because he's the complete fulfiller.

If you are, His, if you belong to christ, Than his work in, you includes sustaining you and growing you. In knowing and keeping and teaching. His commandments. Amen, let's pray.

Lord jesus. Help us. Help us by your spirit for it's not just the age that we live in. The flesh which remains from our former nature. Resists to be ruled and hits your commandments. And so we pray that by your spirit you would help us and stir up in us.

That delight in your law and our inner being that. That conformity to your mind, which calls the commandment, holy and righteous and good. We pray that you had help us to recognize the antinomian who that remains in each of us. And to put it to death. We pray that your spirit would make us to delight in you.

We thank you for the whole of the bible. Help us, lord. Jesus to understand. Every word on every page and it's connection to you. Glorify yourself. But continuing, and then completing That work. That you are doing. Gather to yourself all those. For whom you have accomplished redemption. Apply it to them.

Oh lord. Perfect. All those whom you gather And bring that last and glorious day, we ask. In your own precious name. Lord jesus. Amen.