

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, April 18, 2021

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 29. The Law Fulfilled – Matthew 5:17-20

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: “Righteousness, the one word that sums up Christian living.” (MLJ) Righteousness is defined as “a state that is in accord with standards for acceptable and anticipated behavior, upright, to carry out a total obligation.” Who sets the standard for what is righteous? Who IS the standard? – Matthew 5:6, 10, 48. The Lord is Righteous – Psa. 9:7-8; 11:7; 15:1-2; 45:6-7; 71:19; 89:14; 119:142, 144, 172; 1 John 2:29; 3:7, 10

- I. Righteousness that Exceeds the Pharisees – vs. 20
 - A. What is Required to Be Righteous? – James 2:10
 - 1. Love the Lord with all you are – Matt. 22:36-38
 - 2. Love your neighbor as yourself – Matt. 22:39-40
 - B. Were the Pharisees Righteous?
 - 1. Rules more rigid than the law protected the Pharisees from breaking the law.
 - 2. Their righteousness was –
 - a. External – Luke 16:15
 - b. Ceremonial (for show) – Matt. 23:25-26
 - c. Unbalanced (lighter, weightier) – Matt. 23:23
 - d. Man-made – Mark 7:9-13
 - e. The primary concern was not the glory of God but reputation of self – Luke 18:9-14
 - f. This kind of self-righteousness is damning – Matt. 23:1-15
 - C. How Can Our Righteous Exceed Theirs?
 - 1. Lord, Lord – Matt. 7:21
 - 2. Exact Obedience – CH Spurgeon Quote #1
 - 3. Jesus is about to tell us – Matt. 7:24-29
- II. Law Breakers – vs. 19
 - A. Antinomians
 - 1. Sin is sin – Mark 9:42-48
 - 2. Lawlessness – Matt. 23:28; Matt. 7:23; 1 John 3:4
 - B. Law and Grace
 - 1. Law does not oppose grace
 - 2. Law cannot, on its own, save anyone
 - 3. Law was given to show that we could never justify ourselves before God
 - 4. Law points us to our need for Christ – Gal. 3:24
 - C. Was Jesus Teaching Law Breaking when He Taught Against the Pharisees?
 - 1. Nothing He teaches contradicts the Old Testament Scriptures
 - 2. Everything He teaches contradicts the teaching of the Scribes and Pharisees
 - 3. Ultimately, the Pharisees taught disobedience – Matt. 16:5-12
- III. The Law’s Everlasting Nature – vs. 18
 - A. Not a Pen Stroke Will Pass Away
 - 1. More permanent than Creation
 - 2. Everything in God’s Word will be fulfilled (brought to completion) to the minutest detail
 - 3. Old Testament Scripture is the Word of God and Jesus believed every word of it
 - 4. To doubt the Old Testament Scripture is to doubt Christ – John 10:35
 - B. Law vs. Covenant
 - 1. A Covenant is an Agreement between parties
 - 2. The Law regulates the fulfillment of the agreement
 - 3. The Old Covenant passed away, the Old Testament remains – Heb. 8:13

- a. The Old Testament Stands – CH Spurgeon Quote #2
 - b. Symbols and Standards
 - c. The Word of the Lord endures forever – 1 Peter 1:25
- IV. The Law Fulfilled – vs. 17
- A. Destroying the Law and Prophets
 - 1. Detach, dismantle, annul, make invalid
 - 2. In Contradicting the Religious Teachers, Jesus was not Dismantling the Old Testament
 - B. Fulfilling all The Law and Prophets
 - 1. All the Law and Prophets point to and culminate in Christ
 - 2. Carry out, fully complete everything it demands, full obedience
 - 3. Absolute righteousness, as required by God, determined by the standard of His nature and character, revealed to us in His Law – 2 Cor. 1:20
 - C. Christ and the Law
 - 1. He was Made Under the Law – Gal. 4:4 – MLJ Quote #3
 - 2. He Suffered the Penalty of the Law – Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:21
 - 3. By Him, the Righteous Requirement of the Law was Met – Rom. 8:3-4
 - 4. Now the Spirit Works in Us both to Will and to Do His Good Pleasure – Phil. 2:12-13
- V. Do You Love God’s Law? – Psalm 119:97

Quotes

CH Spurgeon – Quote #1 – “We are to be better than the most precise legalists. Exactly obedient.”

CH Spurgeon – Quote #2 – “The Old Testament stands in all its parts (2 Tim. 3:16-17). He establishes in its deepest sense all that is written in Holy Scripture. He is Himself the fulfillment and substance of the types, prophecies, and commands of the Law.”

MLJ – Quote #3 – “At no time has God shown more clearly the insoluble and absolute character of His own holy law than when He placed His Son under it.”

Cross References

Matthew 5:6

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Matthew 5:10

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:48

48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Psalm 9:7-8

7 But the Lord shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. 8 He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.

Psalm 11:7

7 For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.

Psalm 15:1-2

1 Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? 2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart;

Psalm 45:6-7

6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.

Psalm 71:19

19 Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?

Psalm 89:14

14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

Psalm 119:142

142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

Psalm 119:144

144 The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live.

Psalm 119:172

172 My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.

1 John 2:29

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 John 3:7

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

1 John 3:10

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

James 2:10

10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

Matthew 22:36-38

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment.

Matthew 22:39-40

39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Luke 16:15

15 And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Matthew 23:25-26

25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Matthew 23:23

23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Mark 7:9-13

9 He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. 10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ 11 But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban”—’ (that is, a gift to God), 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, 13 making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

Luke 18:9-14

9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men— extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Matthew 23:1-15

23 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, 2 saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. 3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. 4 For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. 5 But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. 6 They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, 7 greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ 8 But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. 11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. 13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. 14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. 15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

Matthew 7:21

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Matthew 7:24-29

24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” 28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Mark 9:42-48

42 “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. 43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 44 where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’ 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 46 where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’ 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— 48 where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’

Matthew 23:28

28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Matthew 7:23

23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

1 John 3:4

4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

Galatians 3:24

24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Matthew 16:5-12

5 Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. 6 Then Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.” 7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “It is because we have taken no bread.” 8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? 9 Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? 10 Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? 11 How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

John 10:35

35 (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

Hebrews 8:13

13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

1 Peter 1:25

25 But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

2 Corinthians 1:20

20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Galatians 4:4

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Romans 8:3-4

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Psalm 119:97

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

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