

## Mission Accomplished

Matthew 5:17

Before we get into our study, I feel there is something very important for all of us to grasp, and that is how do we learn scripture. 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Peter 1:21.

Acts 17:11

Where do we get our teachings from? How did you learn what 2+2 was and 3x3?

Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 10:11-17.

Churches that have Pastors that are teaching the unadulterated truth of God's word should appreciate sound doctrine. Luke 4:14-22, Luke 24:13-30.

Last week we studied (Be for real) Brother Erving called me with a question somewhat a rebuttal to a scripture we touch on. Romans 12:9, and Romans 13:10.

So, this brings us to our lesson today. Matthew 5:17

Jesus summarized his relationship to the Old Testament with this surprising statement in the Sermon on the Mount: "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"

If Jesus did not come to destroy the Law then how did He fulfill the Law? (don't answer to fast)

By understanding what Jesus meant here, it will shine light and clarify other important questions: What do the Old Testament commands have to do with New Testament Christians?

Should Christians seek to obey the Old Testament just like the Israelites? Can we "unhitch" ourselves from it altogether?

We can rule out one interpretation right away: Jesus is not abolishing the Law and the Prophets—he says as much explicitly. But, on the other hand, he apparently didn't come to simply keep, restate, or reestablish them either.

The word he used signals something more radical and profound: He came to "fulfill" them.

Here's one of the key questions we can ask of Jesus's statement: What, specifically, did he come to fulfill?

We may at first assume he's only referring to ethical commands. But he actually refers to something much broader—he has in view the entire Old Testament, which he summarized here and elsewhere with the phrase "the Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 5:17; see Matt. 7:12; Matt. 11:13; Matt. 22:40).

This includes the whole Old Testament, with all of its commands and covenants and poems and prophecies. Leviticus 14:2, Mtthew 8:2-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-16, John 8:12, John 9:1-6



Jesus goes out of His way to promote the authority of the Law of God. He did not come to abolish the Law, regardless of what the Pharisees accused Him of.

In fact, Jesus continues His statement with a commendation for those who teach the Law accurately and hold it in reverence:

"Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven" ([Matthew 5:19](#)).

The Word is faithful and trustworthy; "everything" it says will be accomplished. Consider what Jesus did *not* do in His ministry. [Matthew 5:17](#),

Jesus says that He did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets. The Prophets will be fulfilled; the Law will continue to accomplish the purpose for which it was given.

[Isaiah 55:10–11](#)

Next, consider what Jesus *did* do. Jesus says that He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. In other words, Jesus' purpose was to establish the Word, and to fully accomplish all that was written. "Christ is the culmination of the law" ([Romans 10:4](#)).

Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law in at least two ways: as a teacher and as a doer. He taught people to obey the Law ([Matthew 22:35–40](#); [Mark 1:44](#)), and He obeyed the Law Himself ([John 8:46](#); [1 Peter 2:22](#)).

In His fulfillment of the Law and Prophets, Jesus obtained our eternal salvation. No more were priests required to offer sacrifices and enter the holy place ([Hebrews 10:8–14](#)).