

Exceeding Righteousness

Matthew 5:17-48, 7:12 - NCBC,
September 1, 2019

Main Point: **You need Jesus' righteousness in you to enter His kingdom.**

- **Only Jesus fulfills all righteousness (17-18)** ○ Not abolishing but incarnating the law of God ○ Jesus is the living Word ○ Righteousness comes by faith's union with Jesus

- **Only Jesus defines righteousness (19-20)** ○ Not relaxing but obeying the law of God ○ Jesus is perfect love ○ Righteousness comes by faith's union with Jesus

Application: **Remember, Christ is your life!**

Opening Announcements:

- **Weds Night Programming Kickoff** – This Weds 9/4!! Dinner from 5 – 6:15p; AWANA and Student Ministries at 6:30p; Prayer Service at 6:45p

<<Jesus Paid it All>>

Romans 10:4 accents our praise this morning by declaring that *Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes*. Praise the Lord for our salvation! What an amazing God we worship together this morning.

So let's continue our worship now by opening our Bibles to **Matthew chapter 5** as we continue beholding the words and the works of King Jesus as Matthew reveals in his gospel.

Page **1a** of 16 Page **1b** of 16

If you do not have a Bible this morning, simply raise your hand as people are coming now with Bibles for you. Once you receive a Bible, please prepare to

read from **Matthew chapter 5**.

We're in the middle of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and today we consider

the main point of the entire sermon.

We've already considered the Beatitudes, which got our attention by picturing the needy dependence of all who are citizens in Jesus' kingdom. The blessed are the poor in spirit, who mourn over their sin, submit to God in suffering, and crave God's gift of positional, practical, and perfected righteousness. There's no room for self-reliance or human religiosity in this description of who God blesses. God's kingdom is made up of those who have been transformed into His likeness simply by believing in Him. God's kingdom is categorically different from the kingdom of this world in every respect.

¹ John 2:13-22 ² John 4:5-26, especially vv.

23-24. C.f. Matthew 4:13-16 and Mark 3:21
And that's why God's children pursue mercy towards others, and inward purity of their own hearts. Because they desire to help others make peace with

God. Even though they expect to be persecuted by a world that hates grace, God's kingdom members endure as preserving salt and shining lights in our dark world.

Now, from **verse 17** all the way to **chapter 7, verse 12**, we get the real heart of this sermon. True righteousness is a matter of inward love, not external activity. You never achieve godliness by focusing more on yourself. Spiritual life only comes by the work of the Spirit of God in us, not any kind of outward conformity to the letter of God's law.

In **verses 17-20**, Jesus validates the importance of the Old Testament Scriptures, even to their finest details. He wants the Jews to understand that His kingdom is in perfect harmony with God's Word, even while He is entirely opposed to the teaching of the scribes and Pharisees.

After all, just think about this sermon's context for a moment. The Sermon on the Mount is preached approximately one year into Jesus' public ministry. So the crowds have already seen Jesus cleanse the Temple at Passover.¹

Jesus had already told a Samaritan woman that the Heavenly Father was seeking true worshippers who will no longer worship at Jerusalem.²

how Jesus emphasized that God's kingdom

Page **2a** of 16 Page **2b** of 16

The crowds knew Jesus and his disciples did not observe the public fastings and prayers like the Pharisees did.³

And Jesus was known to disregard Jewish Sabbath laws! He frequently healed people on the Jewish holy day.⁴ His disciples even picked grain on the Sabbath.⁵

So the crowds had to wonder, what was Jesus' relationship to the Old Testament Scriptures? Did Jesus come to destroy the Law and the Prophets?

Keep in mind as well that there were no books in Jesus' time. No printing press, right? And to compound the distance between the common Jew and the Old Testament Scriptures, during the 70 year Babylonian exile in Jewish history,⁶ the Hebrew language was functionally lost for all Jewish commoners. By Jesus' time, the Jews spoke Aramaic, not Hebrew.⁷ Only the most educated Jews could read the Hebrew Old Testament, if they could even get access to one of the scrolls. Therefore in most of the Jewish synagogues during Jesus' day, the Jewish leaders focused more on the Jewish tradition and religious interpretation of God's laws than even on the Hebrew

shockingly would include the Gentiles, contrary to the teaching of the Jewish Pharisees and Scribes.

Scriptures themselves.

All this is important background to Jesus' main point. Because Jesus is calling everyone to a kind of righteousness that is entirely consistent with the Old Testament scriptures and yet far exceeds the teaching of the scribes and the Pharisees.

³Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39; Matthew 9:14-17 ⁴

John 5:1-18, especially verse 16; Mark 3:1-6;

Luke 6:6-11; Matthew 12:9- ¹⁴ ⁵Mark 2:23-28;

Luke 6:1-5; Matthew 12:1-8

The words, "The law and the prophets" bookend our reading today. You might want to circle these words in your Bible in **verse 17 of chapter 5**, and **verse 12 of chapter 7**. Everything in-between this inclusio helps us understand how Jesus and His kingdom relates to the Old Testament and its revelation of God's righteousness.

Please stand in honor of the public reading of God's Word as I read from **Matthew 5:17**, in the English Standard Translation:

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill Page 3a of 16 Page 3b of 16 righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Verses 21 to 48 provide 6 different examples how God's true righteousness exceeds the man-made teachings of the Jewish leaders. So let's skim through each of the heading verses.

Verse 21 *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'* ²² *But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment...*

Verse 27 *"You have heard that it was*

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.* ¹⁹ *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*

⁶ Approx. 607 BC to 537 BC, c.f. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Babylonian-captivity-exile.html> ⁷ And of course Koine Greek was

the common language of the Roman empire, and thus is the original language of the New Testament Scriptures.

said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ *But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

Verse 31 *"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'* ³² *But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.*

Verse 33 *"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the*

Lord what you have sworn.’³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, ...

Verse 38 *“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. ...*

Verse 43 *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ...* And then skip down to the one sentence summary of these 6 illustrations in **Verse 48**:

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Now **chapter 6** continues this theme of what it means to live in genuine relationship with our perfect Heavenly Father. And then we come to **chapter 7, verse 12**:

“So whatever you wish that others

Page **4a** of 16 Page **4b** of 16
you share all of your sin and neediness with Him – and He shares all of His life and righteousness with you!!¹³ The only way you can enter Jesus’ kingdom is if you are one with the King!¹⁴

Are you married to Christ by faith? Are

would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

This is God’s Word. Please be seated.

Let’s Pray.

Many Bible commentators rightly emphasize the unchanging authority of God’s Word from **Matthew 5:17- 20**. And that’s a worthy emphasis that is clearly found in the details of this paragraph. But as I’ve considered these verses in their broader context, I believe the main point of this paragraph pertains to how we understand holiness. How do you understand righteousness? What does it mean for you, or anyone, to be godly? And specifically, what kind of righteousness must you personally possess in order to participate in Jesus’ kingdom?

Here’s our main point this morning:

you one with Jesus? Is His righteous Spirit active in you even this morning as we worship Him together?

You must possess Jesus’ own righteousness to be saved. Jesus is clear on this point. This has been the

aim of God's law from the very beginning.

Now whenever we talk about God's law it's helpful to remember that there are, **You need Jesus' righteousness in you to enter His kingdom.** No amount of human law-keeping can suffice. No amount of external religious activity can satisfy the eternal law of God.

Three different ways that the Scriptures speak of God's law, or God's Torah or teaching.¹⁵ Most generally "law" refers to **the law of God** – which is God's transcendent, universal revelation of true righteousness. This universal

¹³ Galatians 2:20-21 ¹⁴ 1 Corinthians 1:30; Colossians 3:3-4 ¹⁵ For further study on the three types of God's law, please consult the two **Page 5a** of 16 **Page 5b** of 16 revelation of righteousness is known to all people generally through their God-given conscience¹⁶ and specifically through Scripture.

One specific category of God's law then

sermons on Galatians 3:15-29 recommended at the back of this study, accessible at <http://www.mynCBC.org/church/sermon-archive/page258.html>.

Righteousness means complete freedom from sin. Everything is right – just as God intended – inside me and outside me. Complete conformity to God's will.

In order for you to enter God's kingdom, you need Jesus' own righteousness in you.

Let that soak in for a moment. You need to be a partaker of God's divine nature!⁸ You will never gain entrance into God's heaven through obedience to His law.⁹ Instead, you must have His law written on your heart!¹⁰ Your heart needs to be born again by the Spirit of the Living God,¹¹ as His Spirit gloriously makes you spiritually alive and free!¹² The only way you can be part of the family of God is if you are united with Christ through faith – and

⁸ 2 Peter 1:4 ⁹ Romans 8:3; Colossians 2:20-23; Galatians 3:18 ¹⁰ Ezekiel 36:26-27; Jeremiah 31:33 ¹¹ John 3:3-8 ¹² 2 Corinthians 3:5-18

is **the Law of Moses**. This is the Mosaic law that was given to redeemed nation of Israel at Mt. Sinai. The Law of Moses is a whole unit – consisting of 613 commands for God's chosen nation, summarized by the 10

commandments. **Colossians 2:17** tells us that the Law of Moses was a shadow of things to come, but the substance now belongs to Christ!

Scripture also uses the word “law” to refer to **the law of Christ** – which is speaking of God’s Spirit writing His righteousness upon our hearts by faith.

His Spirit – as He writes the law of Christ upon our hearts.

So then the purpose of God’s law has always been to reveal true righteousness to His creation.¹⁸ But while the righteousness of God has been revealed in some ways through the human conscience and the law of Moses,

All three categories for biblical law aim to reveal the righteousness of God.¹⁷ The conscience generally reveals the law of God’s righteousness to all men.

Only Jesus fulfills all righteousness

¹⁶ Romans 2:14-15 ¹⁷ In 1 Corinthians 9:20-21

Paul uses all 3 of these categories together. He says he is no longer under the law of Moses, but yet not outside of the law

Specifically to Israel – God revealed His righteousness through the Law of Moses. And specifically to the church – God has now revealed His righteousness through the inner work of Listen carefully to **verses 17-18**,

Yes, you crowds have watched me transgress the Jewish traditions of the scribes and Pharisees. But your

of God, as he is now under the Law of Christ. ¹⁸

Romans 3:21-22, 10:3-4

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets;

Page **6a** of 16 Page **6b** of 16

religious traditions are not the same as God's law. *I have not come to abolish [the Scriptures] but to fulfill them.*

Jesus didn't come to destroy God's law, but to display it! He didn't come to change or modify God's law, but to carry it out to its fullest expression! Yes Jesus will abolish all forms of religion by human achievement. But when it comes to the Old Testament Scriptures Jesus is,

Not abolishing but incarnating the law of God

Christ Himself embodies God's law – He personifies righteousness! Jesus fulfills true righteousness in a way that mere outward obedience to external commands cannot. There is absolutely no contradiction between the revelation

of God's righteousness in the Old Testament Scriptures and the person and work of Jesus Christ! Listen to how Jesus said this in **John chapter 5**,

¹⁹ Galatians 3:22-24

You search the [Old Testament] Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me...

Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you had believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.

Ok Jewish legalists – you say you are righteous because of how you interpret yourselves to be keeping the law of Moses. You've set your hope on your

external and ritualistic law-keeping. But here's the problem – the law of Moses only reveals your need for me!¹⁹ The revelation of God's righteousness to you in the Mosaic law has no power to

And then specifically in reference to the Mosaic Law that the Jews had so distorted into a false religion of works- oriented salvation, Jesus says in **verses 45**,

actually transform your heart into the righteousness of God. The righteousness which Moses' law revealed was pointing to the perfection of King Jesus

Page **7a** of 16 Page **7b** of 16

Himself! The righteousness of Christ which must be written on your hearts by faith in Him on your behalf.

Now I want to drive home this point a bit further for us this morning.

Only Jesus fulfills all righteousness not just because He submits to God's law... but because,

Jesus Himself is the living Word!

John 1:1-2 says,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was

God. He was in the beginning with God.

Then in **verse 14**, John says,

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

²⁰ Romans 3:21-22

Don't miss this! Jesus is the fullest revelation of the righteousness of God²⁰ ... in human flesh! One of His eternal names is the very word of God!²¹

That's why Jesus says in **verse 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.

Here is a vital statement on the authority of the Old Testament, which is ultimately and perfectly fulfilled in Christ. So then the conclusion is obvious,

Himself! Not even the smallest Hebrew marking of God's revealed righteousness – picture the smallest part of a serif-font – that's what Jesus refers to here – every minute detail of God's revealed righteousness comes to perfect fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus Christ!

Our righteousness only comes by faith's union with Jesus.

²¹ Revelation 19:13

Page **8a** of 16 Page **8b** of 16

The only way righteousness can truly be accomplished or fulfilled *in* us is by faith in the finished work of Jesus. No amount of law-keeping. No amount of good works. No amount of trying harder – could ever satisfy God’s requirement for your righteousness. Your only hope for entering His eternal kingdom is to believe on Jesus – who alone fulfills all the righteous requirements of the law and transforms our dead hearts of sin into living temples for His Spirit to dwell!

But you object, saying I’m not good enough!! My spiritual life is like dry bones.²² I can’t do it!

Let this realization drive you back into the blessedness of the Beatitudes! Cast yourself entirely on the finished work of Christ. Hunger only for the righteousness which comes through oneness with Jesus! His death paid for your sins and fully satisfied the curse of

the law!²³ His resurrection declared you to be righteous!²⁴ His ascension seated you together with Him in heavenly places,²⁵ and made you a citizen of heaven itself!²⁶

Your conformity to the will of God is only possible as you become one with God Himself – so repent of your sin, and believe on King Jesus! Only Jesus fulfills and satisfies all righteousness.

Then in **verses 19-20**, we observe that,

²² Read Ezekiel 36 and 37 and rejoice dear friend! This is the promise of the Law and the Prophets which is fulfilled in Christ alone!! Simply believe and live – all by the power of His Word and His Spirit alone!! ²³ Galatians 3:13;

Colossians 1:22; 1 Peter 2:24

Only Jesus defines righteousness (19-20)

And this is so important. Because so many people today believe that they are righteous enough, because they submit to some religious system or tradition. You must not ever depend on something in you, or out of you, for your acceptance with God! **Isaiah 64** declares your best attempts at righteousness to be putrid.²⁷

Look carefully at **verse 19**... and there Page **9a** of 16 Page **9b** of 16 estimation. But Jesus clearly says the best of human religion falls short of the righteousness of God.

In fact, **verses 21 to 48** provide 6 different illustrations of the true heart behind God's law:

Jesus repeats the same words 6 times:

You have heard that it was said... but I say to you.

You have heard that it was said –

you see how the human heart attempts to *relax God's commandments*. To downgrade them. To interpret humanly in some way to lower the bar.

But only God defines righteousness. To bend God's law is to break it.

²⁴ Romans 4:25; 8:111 ²⁵ Ephesians 2:6 ²⁶

Philippians 3:20 ²⁷ Isaiah 64:6

meaning, I know this is what you've been taught by your religious leaders. You've been fed a boatload of religious tradition and human interpretations as if it was God's law. But religious leaders don't get to define righteousness. Only God defines what it means to be free from sin!

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

There's absolutely no wiggle room for justifying any transgression. You must be free from any and all sin. This is why **verse 20** is so important for us to understand:

By the way, isn't it interesting that Jesus doesn't say,

You have heard that it was said, but the Scriptures say...?

Jesus doesn't relax but entirely obeys the law of God to the uttermost! Jesus is God, so everything He does and all who He is, is always perfectly conformed to God's will.

Therefore His law – the revelation of God's true righteousness, demands absolute and entire perfection.

We read this in **verse 48**:

For I tell you, unless your righteousness

Page **10a** of 16 Page **10b** of 16
Here is stunning evidence of King Jesus' divine authority!²⁸ He is clearly equating His own words with Scripture!! Jesus is the living Word in human flesh!! He is God, and His words alone have power to give life!²⁹

But look carefully at what Jesus does through these contrasts. He's pressing the point of the law into the very heart and soul of the person. The Jewish traditions had externalized God's law – turned it into outward activities. Something to do or not do. But Jesus says, righteousness is always first a matter of the heart. Anger, Desire, Hard-heartedness, Deceit, Vengeance, Selfishness...these are the sins that

exceeds that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

In Jesus' day, Pharisees were most respected. Most people believed that if only two people made it to heaven, one would be a Pharisee and one would be a scribe. These were the cream of the religious crop in everyone's

keep one from God.

In other words,

Jesus is teaching that the heart of God's law has always been that we would truly love God Himself! That He would be our God, and we would be His people. That His law would be written

on our hearts, and that we would live a life of perfect righteousness powered by His Spirit in us.

²⁸ C.f. Matthew 7:29 ²⁹ John 12:49-50

So then the reason only Jesus defines righteousness is that,

and **1 John 4:9** says that God's love was revealed to us through His Son.³⁰ Jesus is perfect love. And this relates to righteousness since love is the whole point of the law:

Jesus is perfect love.

1 John 4:8 teaches us that God is love,

Page **11a** of 16 Page **11b** of 16

Romans 13:8 says, *the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Verse 10 ... Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law!*

When the Pharisees asked Jesus about the greatest commandment in the law, Jesus replied.³¹

³⁰ C.f. Romans 5:8

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments

depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Don't miss this. The law of God reveals true righteousness... but righteousness is true love for God. There can be no righteousness where there is no love for God or love for others. That's why Jesus concludes this section in the Sermon on the Mount in **chapter 7, verse**

³¹ Matthew 22:34-40

12 with the golden rule of love. For love is the fulfilling of the law!³²

Religious legalism bites and devours and destroys relational oneness with all its pride and fearful comparisons. But the Word of God declares that sin is a love disorder.

come by believing in Christ. For your faith unites you with Christ so that you receive a new heart, and you can truly live free to love God and others without sin!

Here's the point this morning:

³² Galatians 5:14; Matthew 7:12; Romans 13:10

Therefore, your righteousness can only

Page **12a** of 16 Page **12b** of 16

sermon on Galatians 3:15-29 at the end of
Christ is your life!

The greatest gift of the gospel is not forgiveness of sins, or peace with God, or future streets of gold. The greatest delight for God's child is that God is His father, and Jesus is His life!!

You need Jesus' righteousness in you to enter His kingdom. Only those who are holy can be in the presence of God.³³ And holiness means being righteous, or being free from sin in every way. Perfectly conformed to God's likeness. Perfectly loving God and others.

This kind of righteousness is supernatural. It far exceeds all possibility for human religion. You must receive the righteousness of God Himself. You must become united with Jesus. You need Jesus' righteousness in you to enter His kingdom!

So as our servers prepare to distribute the communion elements, please joyfully remember that,

We must never succumb to loving the gifts more than the Giver. Delight in Christ! God's plan from **Genesis 3:15** forward was always to save us by His sovereign grace in spite of ourselves, all so that we might know and love Him, and that He might dwell with us forever!³⁴

So as our servers come forward now with the elements, I'd like us to take some time to quietly ask ourselves, what do I love most about Christ? What are you most thankful for about Jesus?

Gaze upon Christ this morning with joyful thanksgiving and celebration! He is the Word made flesh – He suffered the curse the law demanded for your sin. His gift towards you is inexpressible!³⁵

this manuscript for a fuller explanation of this important point. ³⁵ 2 Corinthians 9:15; Romans 11:33-36

³³ Psalm 15 ³⁴ C.f. Part 2 of the recommended

Page 13a of 16 Page 13b of 16

We must not participate in this glorious feast of remembrance with indifference towards Christ.³⁶

If you are not betrothed to Jesus by faith, and your heart has not yet been awakened by God's Spirit to love Him, please just simply observe us as we participate in this symbolic ceremony of all that Christ means to us. There's nothing spiritual about this juice or these crackers. They just remind us of Christ's blood and body. There's no advantage of participating together in the symbol if you aren't first participating together with us in God's amazing grace that saves and rescues us from sin.

We eat bread – symbolizing Christ's broken body – to remind us that Jesus died so that we could live!

I'm going to ask _____ to pray for us, and then as you receive the bread ... please wait until we can all partake together after everyone is served. Use this time as the music plays to quietly pray – confessing any sin, thanking Jesus for His salvation, and praising God for His sovereign grace that has revealed His glory to you in the face of Jesus Christ!

<<Instrumental Meditation>>

the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he

had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

<<eat>>

³⁶ 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

The men are now coming forward to serve us the cup, as we remember God's amazing promise to give us His Spirit and write His law upon our hearts.

Please sing with us as the juice is served, as we together thank our Lord for His powerful salvation of sinners like you and me!

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's blood which seals our future in His new covenant... I'm going to ask _____ to pray for us as we take the cup together.

<<There is a Fountain>>

In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the

new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

union with Christ’s righteousness as we remember His great salvation of us now!

O Church – let’s proclaim our joyful

<<drink>>

Page **14a** of 16 Page **14b** of 16

Let’s pray our benediction together as we dismiss.

*Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! ⁴Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.” **Revelation 15:3b-4***

Page **15a** of 16 Page **15b** of 16
**Recommended Resources on
*Exceeding Righteousness:***

- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Jeremiah 31:33
- Ezekiel 36:26-27
- Matthew 15:16-20; 22:36-40
- Luke 16:15
- John 10:35
- Romans 3:10, 21-22; 8:2-4; 10:4; 13:8-10
- 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; 9:21
- 2 Corinthians 1:20; 3:5-6
- Galatians 2:16; 3:10-14, 21-24; 4:4; 5:18
- Colossians 2:6-23
- Hebrews 8:10
- James 2:10
- 2 Peter 1:19
- tny.sh/JZYj2qh “Living in the Good of

our Union with Christ” Mike Reeves

- <https://pfc.us/downloads/gospel/GD-1.pdf> “Gospel Dynamics” Lesson 1
- <https://pfc.us/downloads/gospel/GD-2.pdf> “Gospel Dynamics” Lesson 2
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/abolish-fulfill-law.html>

- *The Whole Christ*, Sinclair Ferguson
- *God is the Gospel*, John Piper
- *Transforming Grace*, Jerry Bridges
- *The End of the Law*, Jason Meyer
- *Because He Loves Me*, Elise Fitzpatrick
- *Rejoicing in Christ*, Michael Reeves
- *From Law to Life – Part 1 & 2* sermons preached at NCBC on 5-14-17 and 5-21-17 on Galatians 3:15-29

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Matthew 5:17; 9:14; 12:2; and 15:1-2. Why do you think that some people thought Jesus was trying to abolish the Old Testament? What did Jesus mean by claiming to be the “fulfillment” of the Old Testament scriptures?

2. Read Matthew 5:20. How do you define righteousness? How is your understanding different from the definition of the Jewish Pharisees and Scribes? (c.f. Matthew 23; 1 Samuel 16:7)

3. Read Matthew 5:18-19. Should Christians discount the Old Testament scriptures today? Why or why not? Include John 1:1-3,

14, 18 in your discussion.

4. Note the consistent formula that Jesus uses in Matthew 5:21-48. (esp. vv. 21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43). What is the significance of Jesus saying, “But I say to you”?

5. Read Romans 13:8-10 and then explain Christ’s

teaching in Matthew 5:20. How is it possible to outwardly keep the Mosaic law and yet fail to attain to the righteousness of God?

6. Does your righteousness exceed the righteousness of the most esteemed religious professionals (Pharisees and Scribes)? Please discuss your answers together, in light of the immediate context of the Beatitudes.