He Fulfilled It for Me

Matthew 5:17-19
Isaiah 53:1-11
Romans 8:1-11

The Law and the Prophets (v. 17)

• "the" Law – God’s Law – Absolute truth
• Genesis 1:1 says that this is God’s world and God’s world is governed by His Law.
• Four ways to looking at the Law, as viewed by the Jews:
  • The Ten Commandments – God’s moral Law.
  • The Pentateuch – the books of Moses, including judicial, ceremonial and moral law.
  • The Old Testament – the Pentateuch, historical, prophetical, and wisdom books.
  • The Rabbinical traditions – see Matthew 15:6.
• The phrase “the Law and the Prophets” referred to all of the Scriptures.
• The LAW’s three parts:
  • Judicial – those laws given to Israel making Israel an unique nation.
  • Ceremonial – those laws that prescribed Israel’s worship. Laws dictating how one was to approach Yahweh.
  • Moral – the Ten Commandments. Those laws that regulated the behaviour of all men.

Fulfilled by Christ (v. 17)

• Christ is the center of the Old Testament.
• Christ is the Old Testament – see Luke 24:25-26, 44; John 5:39; Hebrews 10:7
• "to fulfill": “to satisfy”; “to complete”; “to finish”; “to execute”
• God’s standard for all of His Laws is PERFECTION. God does not judge on a curve! (Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 5:1; 1 John 3:3)
• God sets the standards – not us or others!
• We are to compare ourselves with God and not others.
• If the standard is PERFECT then none can be saved! (Matthew 19:25)
• Christ fulfilled the judicial law by temporarily putting aside the nation of Israel. (Matthew 21:43)
• Christ fulfilled the ceremonial law by setting aside the "shadows" and coming as the REAL THING. (Hebrews 9:11-12)
• Christ fulfilled the moral law for us. (ROMANS 8:1-4; 5:19)

Authority of Christ and the Law (v. 18)

• "For assuredly (‘amen’; ‘truly’; ‘in absolute truth’), I say . . . – a carpenter son speaks with absolute authority! Either this is a joke or He is to be listened to!
• "until heaven and earth pass away" – to the end of and beyond earthly history.

Caution and Blessing (v. 19)

• Since the Word of God is the Word of God (eternal and precise) it must never be modified!
• Even Christians have the tendency to "water down" God’s standard.
• Christ here warns that we are not to set aside, break, or even "water down" even the “least” of His commandments. (See Matthew 23:23)
• Teachers come under greater condemnation than those who listen to them. (James 3:1)
• Teachers: Preachers, professional teachers, bible study teachers, parents, anyone who explains the word of God to another! – by word or deed.
• "called" – called by God. It does not matter what others say, but it does matter what God calls us!
• We are called upon “to keep and teach” the Word of God – “our walk must match our talk”.
• We are to walk worthy of our calling. (Ephesians 4:1; Colossians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:12)
• Here we see Christ’s emphasis on “doing”. (Matthew 7:21, 24-27; 12:50)

Conclusion

• Christ fulfilled the requirements of the Law on our behalf! Whose righteousness are you trusting?
• Christ’s gift, (His work, righteousness, obedience), calls for us to take more seriously how we live. Do you love Christ?