

08-31-14

Scripture: Matthew 5:20

Title: Obtaining Righteousness

## Same “Old” Standard

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### **Matthew 5:19**

In our culture that often says

Do your own thing

You can't legislate morality

Where we often question authority

And nobody can tell me what to do...

These verses tells us we still have to follow the law

Jesus isn't changing it

We need to obey even the little things

He has told us God's word is supreme

It hasn't changed and won't change

Jesus is the King, the King of all

He is establishing His kingdom

But, it is a spiritual kingdom

...an internal kingdom

He is talking about a new character starting from the inside

The key to this new kingdom is the OT

Righteousness is still defined in God's terms  
He hasn't changed His mind, on anything

This Law, God's law is over the rabbinic traditions  
It is God's Word that stands  
Not the traditions of the rabbis  
Not the traditions of any man

The Bible doesn't make suggestions  
Rather it gives commands  
We can't minimize even the least of these

Jesus has fulfilled some of these laws – they are no longer binding  
The moral laws are still in effect

If we break the law we're least  
If we keep it we're greatest

### **1 Thessalonians 4:7**

*7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.*

The moral law is still to be followed  
It is related to God's character  
He is holy, we need to be too

In the Epistles we see this again and again  
Clarifying what Jesus has taught here

## **Colossians 2:14**

Jesus paid the penalty for our sin on the cross

Paid it in full – took care of it, cancelled it out

The penalty was paid in full

We are no longer under the curse of the Law

We have seen in verses 17-19

God's law is supreme – there is no greater

Past, present or future

It is true, always has been true, always  
will be true

Jesus came to show us this

He did not come to start over

To wipe out the law

Rather to fulfill it

B/c of this God's Law is to be followed

Down to the smallest part

## **Purpose of the Law**

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Then we come to verse 20

### **Matthew 5:20**

What is the purpose of the law then?

The purpose of the law is to show us that we  
need more righteousness than we can come up  
w/ on our own

### **Galatians 3:24**

The Law was given for the purpose of frustrating us  
To show us our inadequacy  
The Law was given not to show how good we are –  
rather how rotten we are

Several things to consider...

What kind of people do you think go to heaven?

Good people, right?

The better we are, the greater our chance...

Right?

Let's look at **Luke 18:9-14**

This parable is about 2 men

One of them was very religious

Tithed on everything he had

Fasted 103 more times every year than  
was required

He was a religious leader

The other man was not religious

Worked for the evil Roman government

Stole/swindled from his country men

Got rich off the poor

By our above standard which of these men would be  
righteous – good enough to go to heaven

Interesting – it's the bad guy that is made  
righteous – and the "good" guy...

In order for us to be righteous, made right w/ God  
We need s. more than the Scribes and Pharisees  
of the day, we need s. more than being “good”  
or religious

## Scribes and Pharisees

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Two groups often spoken of in Jesus’ day

Scribes – copied the Law

Often very liberal

Didn’t believe in resurrection

And...Pharisees – strict adherents of Law, separatists

Didn’t want to be defiled by anyone or  
anything

Knew they couldn’t keep the standard of the OT

Came up w/ their own list, their own traditions

These took the place of God’s standard

This is what the world does – it knows we can’t keep,  
or meet, God’s standard

So, make up our own so we can be “OK”

Tithe everything – down to the smallest vegetable

Fast more than other people

Be religious

Today...do good

Be nice, do good things...

Make your own standard b/c you know you  
can't keep God's

Most people of this day looking at Scribes and  
Pharisees figured they were the righteous ones, the  
good ones, the ones going to heaven

They knew they couldn't do what they did  
Follow the law so closely

But Jesus said – that isn't good enough  
Their deeds don't make them righteous

The Scribes and Pharisees were dependent on what  
they had done, it was an external thing

Theirs was an outward observance of the Law  
They could maintain the outside  
The inside was a mess  
They hated, condemned  
Had impure thoughts, and  
Cold hearts toward God

Theirs was an external system

Based on traditions of men

God's system is internal, a matter of a changed heart

Again – what's the greatest commandment?

Love the Lord your God...

This is internal, this is relationship, not standards

### **Matthew 23:2-3**

Do what they say, not what they do...

They do all their deeds to be noticed by men

### **Mark 7:7-8**

Over time they had abandoned the law of God

They had created their own law

And convinced themselves they were spiritual

Theirs was a self-centered righteousness

Based on their own standard

They left God out, didn't need Him

Not only does our righteousness have to be greater  
than the Scribes and Pharisees

Most important – it has to meet God's standard

Absolute perfection

Absolute holiness

Internal and external righteousness

## **Obtaining righteousness**

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How good to we have to be to get into heaven?

Be as good as God – perfect

Now – how are you all doing w/ that?

Sounds impossible...

Maybe we better go back to making up  
our own set of rules

**Galatians 2:16**

We are justified by faith in Jesus

We are made righteous by faith in Jesus

We cannot get God's righteousness by our own effort

By following the Law

We can't do it of our selves

**Romans 3:21-22**

Righteousness of God comes by faith in Jesus

Believing that He died for us

We can't earn this, it is God's gift to us

If we try and gain it ourselves we are lost

We can reach out and take God's gift by faith in the

Lord Jesus

Listen to this verse... **Romans 8:4**

***4 so that the requirement of the Law might be  
fulfilled in us***

By putting our faith in the Lord Jesus

Repenting and trusting Him as our Savior

The requirement of the Law is fulfilled in us

When God looks at us, those of us who have repented  
and trusted Jesus as our Savior...

He sees us righteous



He sees us holy

He sees us perfect

Think on that for a while, a long while...

W/o Jesus being God come in human flesh

W/o His death in our place

His substitutionary atonement

W/o His resurrection

There is no attainable righteous for you and I

It doesn't matter how good we are, how religious we are – w/o Jesus we can never be righteous

God has set the standard

We can argue all we want

Doesn't change the standard

He is the standard

Greatest thing of all – He made the way for us to meet His standard – through His Son, His death in our place

### ***Conclusion:***

I'd like us to end with a little test today

A test to see if we are good or bad

Simple test – no studying necessary

Going to start w/ God's standard of the 10 commandments

1 – Have no other gods

How are you doing there?

Anything get in your way of loving and serving God? Anything taking up more time in your life than your relationship w/ God? Anything more important than God in your life?

2 – Don't take God's name in vain

How about that one?

Ever use God's name in a way not referring to Him, not honoring to Him...

We're skipping around a bit

Don't want/need to hit them all...

3 – How are you doing at honoring your parents?

Maybe you're grown – does that let you off the hook – how did you do at home?

Did you go to bed when asked?

Do what you were asked?

Respond respectfully...

4 – Do not lie

Maybe we should just skip that one...

Anyone here never lie?

5 – Do not steal

Maybe nothing big...

I don't see anything qualifying this one

Do not steal big things...

Do not steal things over \$5.00...

How is it going so far?

We've only hit 5 of the 10

We could keep going

I think you get the point

We often like to think we're good enough

Like to think we're better

Good enough

By God's standard, by God's Law

None of us is righteous

All of us have sinned

All of us are separated from God

What does our verse say again?

We need a righteousness greater than the Scribes and  
the Pharisees

What kind of a righteousness did they have?

Self righteousness – they were right in

their own eyes – thought they were good

enough

The righteousness that we are to have is not available  
under the present system

No matter how good we are, how kind we are

How religious we are...

We cannot enter the kingdom on our own goodness  
No matter how good it may look...

The standard is the Old Testament, the Law of God  
None of us measure up  
None of us can

We need to repent, ask Jesus' forgiveness – believe in  
Him, but our faith in His death and resurrection  
Have His righteousness applied to our lives  
Believe in Him

***Benediction:***

**Philippians 3:7-8a, 9**

*7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I  
have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More  
than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the  
surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, ...  
9 and may be found in Him, not having a  
righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but  
that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness  
which comes from God on the basis of faith,*

Obtaining Righteousness

Matthew 5:20

Same “Old” S\_\_\_\_\_

P\_\_\_\_\_ of the Law

S\_\_\_\_\_ and P\_\_\_\_\_

Obtaining r\_\_\_\_\_