



What Are You Chasing?

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What are some things people might pursue or chase after in this world?

Solomon –

- **Worldly Pleasures**
- **Houses**
- **Vineyards, Gardens, Parks**
- **Bought animals.**
- **Hired a staff of people.**
- **Accumulated silver & gold and great wealth.**
- **He hired entertainment, bands, singers.**
- **He became greater than anyone before Him.**

And After All of this He said:

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

*“I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;
I refused my heart no pleasure.
My heart took delight in all my labor,
and this was the reward for all my toil.
Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done
and what I had toiled to achieve,
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;
nothing was gained under the sun.”*

Matthew 5:17-18

*“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.** For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”*

What Law/Commands is Jesus referring to?

- The 10 Commandments
- The 613 Jewish Laws of the Old Testament
- Or the ones that follow in the Sermon on the Mount

Let's say it's all of the above.

How might someone reading this for the first time respond?

- Is Jesus telling us, instructing us **to chase after the Law?**
I do not believe so. **Jon, how do you know that we shouldn't be chasing the law?**

Because scriptures must harmonize!

The Word does not contradict itself. So, when we encounter things that seem to do just that, it may require some digging, studying and prayer on our part for us to truly understand the heart of the passage.

Look at this:

Romans 6:14

*“For sin shall no longer be your master, because **you are not under the law**, but under grace.”*

Romans 7:6

*“But now, by dying to what once bound us, **we have been released from the law** so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and **not in the old way of the written code**.”*

Christ has fulfilled the law. He has met all the requirements needed. He has paid the price & penalty for our inability to fulfill the law. Soak that in for a minute!!!

You never have to:

- **Sacrifice a pet.**
- **Memorize the 1st 5 books of the Bible.**
- **Give a Burnt, Grain, Peace, Sin or Guilt Offering.**

Jesus Freed you from all of that. Don't chase the law.

Matthew 5:19

“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.”

Who will be called great?

But let's read on... This part really gets to me.

Matthew 5:20

“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

So, God wants us to be better than a pharisee?

- **Do you ever Sin? How righteous are you in and of yourselves?**

What is the character of the pharisees? What is their focus?

Look at this interaction Jesus had with the Pharisees...

Matthew 15:7-9

“You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”

Our focus should not be chasing the Law. That will leave us chasing our own tails and getting nowhere.

But listen, there is Good News in God's Word! News that I pray this morning, would give you hope & freedom in many ways.

Romans 3:20-25 & 28

*"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight **by the works of the law**; **rather**, through the law we become conscious of our sin. **But now apart from the law** the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe**. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, and **all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus**. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—**to be received by faith...** For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law."*

Romans 4:4-5

*"Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, **to the one who does not work but trusts God** who justifies the ungodly, **their faith is credited as righteousness.**"*

Romans 8:3-4

"For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering, And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

Galatians 2:21

"I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

So how should we respond to all of this? By Chasing The Law? By Chasing Perfection? By chasing Righteousness? By trusting in our own Righteousness? By chasing the wind & following in Solomons footsteps?

NO! we respond by Trusting and Remaining in JESUS!

**JESUS IS ENOUGH! JESUS IS ENOUGH!
JESUS IS ENOUGH! JESUS IS ENOUGH!
JESUS IS ENOUGH! JESUS IS ENOUGH!**

HE IS ENOUGH!