

Why Christians Should Keep the Law (Part 4)—The Scariest Verse in the Bible

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The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/v733dy8/pt-4-why-christians-should-keep-the-law>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Welcome, everyone, to Episode 4 of *Why Christians Should Keep the Law*.

In our last discussion, we talked about how Jesus, in Matthew 5:17, took the time to warn us about falling into the trap of distorting, misinterpreting, or even misrepresenting the whole point of His mission. And what was the point of Jesus's mission? It was not to destroy the Law; it was to fulfill the Law. His mission was to fulfill the Law on every level: on a prophetic level, on a walking out the Law perfectly level, and on a righteousness level. He fulfilled it; he didn't come to destroy it.

To ensure we understood him with perfect clarity, He followed up His statement by saying—¹⁸ **Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot one tittle will by no means pass from the Law till all is fulfilled** (Matthew 5:18). Jesus declared how immovable the Law is. The Law is valid, binding, and fixed. To prove it, He called two witnesses to the table. A governing principle throughout Scripture is on the testimony of two all things are to be established. Jesus called two witnesses, heaven and earth, and to this day these witnesses speak. You can look up and see the heavens are intact. You stand on the earth and know it is intact, despite the fact that it's in total chaos even though we have two witnesses declaring the validity of the law.

Today, we will build on this prophetic warning Jesus gave. We will look at the end of His Sermon on the Mount message, which spans from Matthew 5 all the way into Matthew 7. I will show you one of the last things Jesus said in this sermon, which literally draws us back to Matthew 5:17. Looking at both the prophetic warning in Matthew 5 and the passage in Matthew 7 that I will show you, hands down, they are the scariest verses in all of the Bible.

In Matthew 7: 21—Jesus said—²¹ **Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

Notice, this is about professing Christians who call upon the name of Jesus and proclaim to know Him. Jesus was indicating that not everyone who calls upon His name, professes His name, and declares to know Him is of Him, but only those who do the will of His Father in heaven.

Matthew 7:22—Jesus continued—²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

The context of this is the judgment day. These Christians are begging for their very lives. They want to get into the kingdom of God, and they're not going to get in. They are absolutely terrified. They start naming things they have done for the kingdom, and these are no mundane things. These Christians, who cast out demons, prophesied, and did mighty works in the name of Jesus, would be renowned within the faith. These men would be greatly respected in the church. So, these men remind Jesus of all the things they have done for Him, all their labor for His holy name and for the gospel.

The scariest part of what we see here is that not for a moment did these men think they weren't getting into the kingdom. They absolutely believed they were going to heaven. That's the scariest part of everything we see here. After all their begging, pleading, and showing Him all the awesome things that they did in His name for the kingdom of God, Jesus said:

Matthew 7:23—²³ And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, **you who practice lawlessness.** (Emphasis added.)

These were professing Christians who did not heed the prophetic warning that Jesus gave in Matthew 5:17 where He warned all of us—¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law.” These Christians believed they didn't need to keep the Law. They were absolutely confident in lawlessness with no reservation, whatsoever. They fell into the trap. They didn't listen to His prophetic warning. How scary is that! This is hands down the most terrifying passage I've ever read in my life, and there's a lot of terrifying passages in the Bible, but this one takes them all because we are dealing with professing Christians, and we are dealing with the Law.

Today, when we see this mantra that Jesus came to do away with the Law, do not believe that insanity for a second. That is absolutely fundamentally against the teachings of Jesus, and if there was ever a sermon for you to listen to regarding this topic of the Law, it is the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus spent the entire sermon talking about the importance of the Law, how to keep the Law, and how important it is to keep the Law.

In 1 Peter 2:16—Peter said we live—¹⁶ as free—then sends this warning—yet not using liberty—our freedom in Christ. He has set us free. We are not to use the grace God has given us—as a cloak for vice, —in the Greek, *kakia*, or in the reflectic, *kakias*. This means wickedness. We are not to use the fact that He set us free from sin as a cloak to walk in lawlessness. God forbid that we would ever do such a thing.

Jude 1:4—Jude said this—⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed . . . What did he mean? Creeping in where? He meant certain men had crept into the church, into the body of Christ. The scariest part is they crept in unnoticed. They look like one of us. They look like healthy Christians. They are part of the body, and we are all in fellowship with one another. That's what's so scary about this.

Jude 1:4 continued—⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men—and what do they do—who turn the grace of God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ—Messiah *Yeshua*. (Emphasis added).

They fall into the trap of walking in lawlessness. When we take on the name of Jesus, and yet we don't walk in His Law, but we reject His Law, we are turning the grace of God into lewdness. It's an absolute abomination.

I want to leave you with one last thing regarding Matthew 7:23—²³ **And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'**. Anytime I cover this passage, I always talk about what "I never knew you" means. Is it a statement saying they were never saved (more of a Calvinistic ideology), and my answer to that is absolutely not. That is not what is being communicated here. If we read Ezekiel 33, we find out exactly what Jesus meant in this passage. We read the following:

Ezekiel 33:13a—^{13a} **When I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity,**

He's talking about someone who is righteous, who is walking faithfully in the Word of God, and who trusts in God. It's a good life, but then there's a turn when that man begins to trust in his own righteousness. In other words, this man thinks, "I have done so much good, it's okay to walk away from the Law a little bit. It's okay if I let my hair down a little bit. If I sin, it's not the end of the world. I can do this because I've labored so hard for the kingdom. I've prophesied in His name. I've done many wonders in His name. I've done all these things. It's not that big a deal if I get caught up in sin, or if I walk a little bit away from the Law." When a Christian believes they've labored so hard and done enough good that it's okay to walk away from the Law, do you understand they are trusting in their own righteousness? By definition that is how the Bible defines trusting in your own righteousness. The rest of the verse says:

Ezekiel 33:13b—^{13b} **none of his righteous works shall be remembered; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die.** (Emphasis added).

Did you get that? None of his righteousness will be remembered. All of it will be forgotten. His faithfulness in all he did was authentic because the Bible calls these people righteous. They were righteous and faithful, but if you abandon the Law of God, walk away from His Word, and walk in sin, everything that you were will be forgotten; hence the term "I never knew you." This is not a trap any God-fearing Christian loving Jesus wants to fall in. Cling to the words of Jesus.

That's all we have time for today. Look forward to seeing you in the next episode. Lord bless you all.