

**Text: Matthew 5:17-20**

**October 18, 2015**

**Title: The Old Testament, Christ, and the Christian**

## **I. CHRIST AND THE OLD TESTAMENT**

What does Jesus mean by the Law and the Prophets?

- He is talking really about the totality of the Old Testament.
- Divisions of the Old Testament: 17 Historical books (5 Torah/Law); 5 Wisdom books; 5 Prophetic books

So, Jesus says he has come to fulfill the promises, message, and purpose of the Old Testament

- Luke 24:25-27
- John 5:39-40

How specifically then does fulfill the Old Testament? SEVERAL WAYS:

- (1) He fulfills prophecy
- (2) He fulfills types and shadows
- (3) He fulfills the Law
  - Helpful to think of the Law in various aspects: Ceremonial Law, Civil Law, Moral Law

## **II. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE OLD TESTAMENT**

What does he mean when he says our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees?

- The scribes and Pharisees were well known to be law keepers...the most "righteous" people alive.
- But, their righteousness was merely external, and not of the heart.
- So, we need a righteousness that goes deeper than outward conformity.

We need a righteousness that is deeper, of the heart

- This is the promise of the New Covenant in the Old Testament.
- Jeremiah 31:31-33
- Ezekiel 36:26-27
- Hebrews 10:1-18 – *He takes the heart OT Law which was outside and moves it inside of us*

How the Reformers explained the Law in the life of the Believer

- The law crushes us and drives to be justified, then Christ sends us back to the law to be sanctified

The Gospel

- Christ obeyed the Law, took it's punishment for us, and makes us alive by giving us a new heart so that we can obey and enjoy God forever.

Implications:

1. We are free from legalism
2. We are free from license