

## Gleanings from the Pentateuch

Excursus:  
Theology of the Law (pt 7)

## Theology of the Law

Summary: Nature of the Law

- *The Law is essentially an expression of God's love for the good of His people*
  - The Law does not teach salvation by works
  - The Law is not opposite grace/gospel
  - Israel by and large pursued the Law wrongly

## Theology of the Law

Summary: Purpose of the Law

- *The Law defined God's people as a holy nation in terms that foreshadowed Christ*
  - The entire Law foreshadows the work and righteousness of Christ

Christ is the fulfillment of the Law – in His life, work and teaching

## Fulfillment by Christ

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.”

Q: What does Jesus mean by “fulfill”?

A: To accomplish that to which the Law pointed

## Fulfillment by Christ

Matthew 5:18-19

“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.”

Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

## Fulfillment by Christ

Matthew 5:21- 48

➤ Jesus teaching fulfills the Law by making demands which the Law anticipated in its New Covenant fulfillment

- He is not merely correcting Pharisaical abuse of the Law
- He is not merely giving the true intention of the Law

## Fulfillment by Christ

### Matthew 5:21- 48

#### ➤ *Observations* (a new Mt. Sinai)

1. Jesus goes beyond Moses by proclaiming the standards of kingdom righteousness that were *anticipated* by the Law
2. Jesus as a “new Moses” bases His teaching on His own intrinsic authority

## Fulfillment by Christ

### Matthew 5:21- 48

#### ➤ “you heard that it was said...but I say to you”

- murder...anger
- adultery...lust
- divorce...adultery
- vows...no oaths
- eye for an eye...turn the other cheek
- love your neighbor...love your enemy

## Fulfillment by Christ

### Summary:

➤ Jesus “fulfills” the Law in His teaching by proclaiming the standards of kingdom righteousness anticipated by the Law

Q: *What is the practical effect?* It both intensifies and abrogates the Law

Q: How does this align with Jesus’ statement in Matthew 5:19?

## Fulfillment by Christ

### Conclusion:

All the commandments are binding on Christians...

But the way in which they are binding is determined by their fulfillment in Christ