

# THE LAW AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: PART I, MATT. 5:17-30

But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; ~ 1 Tim. 1:8

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The authority of Jesus Christ is clearly demonstrated by His teaching on the law. Though there were many, as the scribes and Pharisees, who considered themselves to be righteous, Jesus reveals that the kingdom of heaven is based upon perfect righteousness. The key to it all is in verse 17; we would be perfectly helpless and hopeless without it.

1. The law, vv. 17-20; John 1:45; 5:39, 45-47; Heb. 10:5-9; Rev. 19:10; 22:9
  - a. Realm, Rom. 3:19-20; 7:7-13; 1 Tim. 1:9-11
  - b. Duration, v. 18; Luke 16:17
    1. Jot—**ἰῶτα** is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew jod ך
    2. Tittle—**κεραία** is presumed to be from **κέρας** (horn); thus, it is defined as a little horn. Yet, we are informed that Greek grammarians used this word to refer to the accents and diacritical points. Although the universal meaning given is that Jesus referred to the smallest parts of the letters, I believe He meant the points: **הַהֲהֲ**?
  - c. Fulfillment, vv. 17, 19-20; Luke 24:44-48
    1. To teach the breaking of the law is wrong, v. 19; Heb. 10:26-29. Yet, to teach the keeping of the law is an unbearable yoke that opposes grace, Acts 15:10; Gal. 5:4.
    2. Perfect righteousness and the new birth, v. 20; Rom. 5:8; John 3:5-6
    3. Faith in Jesus, John 1:12; 3:16; Gal. 3:2-3
      - a. Walking in the Spirit, Matt. 22:36-40; Rom. 8:1-4; 13:8-10; 1 Tim. 1:5-7
      - b. The letter and the Spirit, 2 Cor. 3:6; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; 1 Cor. 8:8-13
2. Anger—murder, vv. 21-26; 1 John 3:15
  - a. Three forms of condemnation:
    1. The judgment—twenty-three judges capable of sentencing to death by strangulation or beheading
    2. The Sanhedrin—capable of sentencing to death by stoning
    3. The fire of Hinnom—that awful place of defilement where children were sacrificed to Molech and later where continual fires burned things unclean.
  - b. The Spirit must govern interactions, vv. 23-26; Col. 3:12-14; John 13:34-35.
3. Lust—adultery, vv. 27-30; James 1:14-15