

Matthew 5:17-20 “Christian Kosher”

A description of what we were meant to be.

- A manual to build a Christian the right way
 - To Function according to design
 - No parts left over
 - No screws loose

Matthew 5:

1. **V3** – “poor in spirit” – “kingdom of heaven”
2. **V4** – “sorrowing over their sin” – “comforted through the blood”
3. **V5** – “meek” – “will inherit everything Jesus owns”
4. **V6** – “hungry and thirsty for righteousness” – “truly fulfilled”
5. **V7** – “merciful” – “giving and forgiving”
6. **V8** – “pure in heart” – witness God’s glory
7. **V9** – “Real Peace Brings Real Joy” – be like Jesus!
8. **V10-12** – “The World’s Penetration” – Heaven is our reward
9. **V13-16** – “Saints Penetrating the World” – We can take this city!
 - **V13** – Salt
 - **V14-16** – Light
10. **V17-20** – “Christian Kosher” – Jesus and the law

17 “Do not think that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets.
I have not come to destroy *them* but to fulfill *them*.”

18 For truly I say to you,
until heaven and earth pass away,
not one tiny letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law
until all takes place.

19 Therefore whoever abolishes one of the least of these commandments
and teaches people to do so
will be called least in the kingdom of heaven,
but whoever keeps *them* and teaches *them*,
this person will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness greatly surpasses *that* of the
scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter into the kingdom of heaven. ¹

Kosher:

The lifestyle and goal of the everyday faithful Jew.

¹ W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Mt 5:17–20.

- **Kashrut** (also **kashruth** or **kashrus**, כַּשְׁרוּת) is the set of Jewish dietary laws. Food in accord with Halakha (Jewish law) is termed **kosher** in English, from the Ashkenazi pronunciation of the Hebrew term *kashér* (כָּשֵׁר), meaning "fit" (in this context, fit for consumption by Jews) according to traditional Jewish law with the idea of "clean", "intact" and "spotless". Food that is not in accordance with Jewish law is called **treif** (Yiddish: טרייף or *treyf*, derived from Hebrew טְרֵפָה *trēfáh*). Kosher can also refer to anything that is fit for use, or that is correct according to Halakha, such as a Hanukiyah (candelabra for Hannukah), or a Sukkah (a Sukkot booth).

17 "Do not think that I came to **destroy** the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to **fulfill**."

Destroy:

- **76.23 καταλύω**^d: **to completely invalidate something which has been in force**—'to do away with, to invalidate, to make invalid.' μή νομίσητε ὅτι ἦλθον καταλῦσαι τὸν νόμον 'do not think that I have come to do away with the Law' Mt 5:17.²
- The verb **"destroy"** means to "loosen down" as of a house or tent. ³
2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is **destroyed**, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Fulfill:

- **To fill to the top, fill to the brim.**
- **To carry through to the end – to be committed to finishing God's will.**
 - **BRUNER:** He has not come to set Hebrew Scripture aside or to make it less important. He has come to "fulfill" it, which **literally means to "fill it full"** (full-fill) by obedience (his and his disciples), and by teaching its deeper meanings to set it "fully" on its feet. ⁴

Galatians 3:19-26. (NLT)

19 Why, then, was the law given?

It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins.

² Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 681.

³ Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Mt 5:17). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

⁴ Frederick Dale Bruner, *Matthew: A Commentary: The Christbook, Matthew 1–12*, Revised and Expanded Edition, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007), 197.

But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people.

20 Now a mediator is helpful if more than one party must reach an agreement. But God, who is one, did not use a mediator when he gave his promise to Abraham.

21 Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it.

22 **But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.**

23 Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed.

24 **Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith.**

25 And now that the way of faith has come, **we no longer need the law as our guardian.**

26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 5

What about the “Hebrew Roots Movement”:

The Hebrew Roots movement is an attempt to force all Christians to observe a KOSHER lifestyle.

- Men get circumcised
- Observe Shabbat services only
- Observe strict Shabbat rules concerning travel and work.
- Eat and live Kosher lives
- Wear Kippurs around town.
- Strongly criticize all Christians for not doing the same.

In opposition to what the Hebrew Roots movement claims, the New Testament teachings of the Apostle Paul are perfectly clear and self-explanatory.

Colossians 2:16,17 "Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a **festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day** – things which are a shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ."

Romans 14:5 "One person regards one day above another,

⁵ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), Ga 3:19–29.

another regards every day alike.
Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind."

Scripture clearly indicates that these issues are a matter of personal choice. **These verses and many others give clear evidence that the Mosaic Covenant laws and ordinances have ended.** Continuing to teach that the Old Covenant is still in effect in spite of what the New Testament teaches, or twisting the New Testament to agree with the Hebrew Roots beliefs, is false teaching. ⁶

Bruner: "If Jesus' fulfillment is not seen as full (and Matthew is often interpreted this way), then the tension between Paul's gospel of Christ and Matthew's gospel of Christ becomes unbearable." ⁷

18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **one jot or one tittle** will by no means pass from the law till all is **fulfilled**.

Yod:

- **"Jewish tradition mentions the letter **Yod** as being irremovable; adding that, if all men in the world were gathered to abolish the least letter in the law, they would not succeed. The guilt of changing those little hooks which distinguish between certain Hebrew letters is declared to be so great that, if such a thing were done, the world would be destroyed."** ⁸
- **"Jot"** refers either to the Greek *iota* or the Hebrew *yod*, the smallest letters in their respective alphabets. ⁹

⁶ <https://www.gotquestions.org/Hebrew-roots.html>

⁷ Frederick Dale Bruner, *Matthew: A Commentary: The Christbook, Matthew 1–12*, Revised and Expanded Edition, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007), 200.

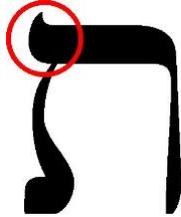
⁸ Vincent, M. R. (2002). *Word studies in the New Testament* (Mt 5:18). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁹ *Spirit filled life study Bible*. 1997 (electronic ed.) (Mt 5:18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



A **tittle** is a tiny mark used to distinguish certain Hebrew letters. ¹⁰

- “Tittle” is from the Latin *titulus* which came to mean the stroke above an abbreviated word, then any small mark. ¹¹



Fulfilled:

- **Fulfilled precisely – not just close enough – fulfilled in perfection**
 - No missing parts
 - Working according to perfect design
 - Connected perfectly to the heart of God – HIS will be done

Galatians 2:16, 21. (NIV)

16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law,

because by observing the law no one will be justified.

21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!” ¹²

If I fulfill the law – the law is still hungry, still a vacuum, it wants more, it is never satisfied, never fully assembled.
When Jesus satisfied the entirety of the law by completely satisfying the hunger and vacuum of the Law. The Law no longer has a hunger to imply dissatisfaction.

¹⁰ *Spirit filled life study Bible*. 1997 (electronic ed.) (Mt 5:18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹¹ Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Mt 5:18). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

¹² *The Holy Bible: New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984), Ga 2:16–21.

19 Whoever therefore **breaks** one of the **least** of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called **least** in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Break:

- **λύω** impf. ἔλυον; fut. λύσω LXX;
 - ① **to undo something that is used to tie up or constrain something, loose, untie bonds** (Da 5:12 Theod.), fetters (Lucian, Dial. Mar. 14, 3; Job 39:5 δεσμούς; Philo, Somn. 1, 181; Hippol., Ref. 5, 19, 20) or someth. similar. ¹³
 - **a shattering to minute fragments, to burst, to rend.**
- **Shall do and teach** (ποιησῆ και διδαξῆ [poiēsēi kai didaxēi]).
 - **Jesus puts practice before preaching.**
 - The teacher must apply the doctrine to himself before he is qualified to teach others.
 - **The scribes and Pharisees were men who “say and do not” (Matt. 23:3), who preach but do not perform.** ¹⁴
 - Matthew 23:3** Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; **for they say, and do not do.**

We observe the laws of the Land, but we should NEVER think that going the speed limit makes us Holy or Righteous!

- **Do those that run the red lights go to Hell?**
- **Do those that graze in the produce section of the supermarket go to Hell?**
- **Do those that exaggerate their Charity giving on their IRS1040 forms go to Hell?**

Pharisees: “Rules for thee and not for me.”

20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will **by no means** enter the kingdom of heaven.

¹³ Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed.) (606). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

¹⁴ Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Mt 5:19). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

- The standard for righteousness cannot be fulfilled by:
 - Living like a professional Lawman – the Pharisee
 - “Hebrew Roots” lifestyle
 - Saturday worship
 - Kosher lifestyle
 - Living a “religious” life

♣ Only by the BLOOD of Jesus:

Philippians 3:8–9

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;**

Galatians 3:1–3

1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

2 This only I want to learn from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—**

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?