

Christ's Fulfillment of the Law (Mathew 5:17-19)

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In the Antarctic summer of 1908-1909, Sir Ernest Shackleton and three companions attempted to travel to the South Pole from their winter quarters. They set off with four ponies to help carry the load. Weeks later, their ponies dead, rations all but exhausted, they turned back toward their base, their goal not accomplished. Altogether, they trekked 127 days. On the return journey, as Shackleton records in "The Heart of the Antarctic," the time was spent talking about food—elaborate feasts, gourmet delights, sumptuous menus. As they staggered along, suffering from dysentery, not knowing whether they would survive, every waking hour was occupied with thoughts of eating.

Jesus, who also knew the ravages of food deprivation, said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness" (Matt. 5:6). We can understand Shackleton's obsession with food as he experienced starvation, but this gives us a small glimpse of the passion or hunger that Jesus intends for each one of us to have for righteousness or righteous living.

Matthew 5:17-10

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

In these verses, Jesus gives us the example of how to live a righteous life in that He came to fulfill the law in its entirety, and in doing so, He lived a righteous life that could be seen by others. There is much to consider in these verses. Let's reflect upon them.

1. There is the promise of fulfillment - "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil" (17).

The terms law and prophets (Matt. 7:12) were a reference to the main divisions of the Old Testament. The third division was the Psalms (Luke 24:44). All of the Mosaic Law was seen as a unifying system (Matt. 7:12; 11:13; 22:40; Luke 16:16; Acts 13:15; 24:14; 28:23; Rom. 3:21). The law was the system of legislation given by God through Moses to the nation of Israel. The entire body of the law is found in Exodus 20-31, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy. However, its basic essence is embodied in the Ten Commandments. The phrase "the Law and the Prophets" was always understood to refer to the Jewish Scriptures themselves - not the rabbinical interpretations.

"I came to fulfill the law and the prophets." Why did Jesus make this statement? It's because some of the Jews may have already concluded that Jesus was a radical who was discarding the teachings of the Old Testament, their law, since He was NOT following their manmade interpretations of it. In saying this, Jesus wanted to expose the erroneous interpretations of the law by the Pharisees and their misuse of it. In essence, Jesus is saying, "I know the law in and out, I know what it says and means and have obeyed its teachings and followed its righteous teachings."

The word "fulfill" means that Jesus came to complete the law – not recreate it, add to it, or change it in any way. This is what Jesus is saying to the Jews. How did Jesus fulfill the law? Jesus is teaching that His own righteous life and obedience, His own death, burial, resurrection, and ascension became the fulfillment of the entirety of the Mosaic Law. But in order to arrive at this conclusion, Jesus must defend the Jewish Scriptures (the OT law). The whole point of Jesus' words in verses 17-18 seem to be that Christ came to FULFILL all of the Mosaic law (vs. 17) but in order to do this He must PRESERVE the true TEACHING about the law. His teaching counters the false interpretations and misrepresented teachings of the law by the Pharisees and CONFIRMS the true nature of the Mosaic Law.

Jesus would say later in Matthew 5:19:

“...but whosoever shall do and teach them (as Jesus did in teaching and obeying the law), the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

This is how Jesus fulfilled the law – by doing it and teaching the truth of the law which was lost in the rituals and interpretations of the Pharisees. Jesus fulfilled the law by teaching it correctly, observing it completely, and obeying it perfectly as He lived out a righteous life and then died on the behalf of sinners. In His life, Jesus perfectly kept every part of the law. He was perfectly righteous and did not violate the smallest part of God’s law. Jesus is saying that He did NOT come to teach or practice anything contrary to that law in even the slightest way, but to uphold it entirely by TEACHING it correctly and LIVING it correctly.

John Philipps said:

“The Jews counted 613 separate edicts in the Mosaic law and there never was a single moment when the Lord Jesus did not absolutely fulfill in every detail every commandment. As a baby and as a boy, as a teenager and in the prime of life, at home, at school, at work, at play, as a son and as a brother, as a neighbor and as a friend, as a village carpenter, as an itinerant preacher, in secret and in public, when surrounded by family and friends and when confronted by formidable foes—at all times, in all places, in all ways, He kept the law of God. He kept it in letter and in spirit. He kept the law in its injunctions and in its intentions. He kept it because it was His nature to keep it. He would never dream of not keeping it. It was His Father's will and Jesus always did those things that please the Father (John 8:29).”

The point of Jesus seems to be this. Jesus did not come to create a rival system to the Law of Moses and the words of the prophets, as some were suggesting, but to truly fulfill of the Law and the Prophets, which stood in CONTRAST with the Pharisees’ traditions they claimed were based on the law. The Pharisees were actually destroying the law by their forced interpretations and manmade diversions from it, but Jesus said He came into the world to fulfill the totality of the law and not sidestep it like the Pharisees did.

You know, sometimes we try and get around the truth. We too can reinterpret it, redress it, and try to redo it so it will fit our lifestyle and choices. In the end, we

actually reject the truth and try to dodge it. The scribes and Pharisees realized God's revealed standards of righteousness were impossible to keep by their human standards of living, which is one reason they invented traditions that were easier to keep than the law itself. The traditions were more involved, complicated, and detailed than God's law, but for the most part, they stayed within the bounds of human accomplishment, within what man could do in his own power and resources. Their traditions actually lowered the standards of God's scriptural teaching. Their whole system of self-righteousness was built on reducing God's standards and elevating one's own imagined goodness above God's true standards.

Jesus' stern warning, "Think not" or do not think, indicates that many of His Jewish hearers had a wrong idea about His teaching. Most Jews considered the rabbinic traditions of the law to be the proper interpretations of the law of Moses. As a result, they concluded that because Jesus did not scrupulously and minutely follow these extra-biblical traditions, He obviously was doing away with the law or relegating it to minor importance.

Mark 7:2-5

"And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him (Jesus), Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?"

The manmade traditions created around the law became outlandishly stretched to the point where the Talmud forbid walking more than 2,000 cubits on the Sabbath except between one's own personal possessions! The Babylonian Talmud is so comprehensive and detailed that an English edition of this work fills 36 volumes and almost 36,000 pages! The extremes to which the rabbis went bordered on the insane. Josephus records how it was forbidden to stuff a little piece of wax in the hole of a container to stop the liquid from running out since this was viewed as working on the Sabbath. Nor could a person wipe a wound on the Sabbath. A man

could not move a sheaf in his field on the Sabbath but he could lay a spoon on the sheaf and in order to remove the spoon, he could also indirectly remove the sheaf on which the spoon lay.

You see, when Jesus condemned their traditions of washings, special tithes, extreme Sabbath observance, and other wrong interpretation of Moses' Law, the people thought He was thereby overthrowing and getting rid of God's law. Since the people thought He was overturning and replacing the Law, Jesus had to, at the very beginning, remind them that He came to teach and follow the true teachings and righteousness of the law. In saying this, He gives to the people the clearest exposition of the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God!

We should desire to do what we know is right and not try and undermine the truth by covering it up and attempting to redo it. God wrote it! Don't rewrite it or redo it to suit your own personal lifestyle or agenda. We need to be honest and open to the Scriptures. Instead of trying to rewrite them, we must obey them!

2. There is the precision of fulfillment - "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (18).

The word "verily" translates *amēn*, which means "It is true!" What Jesus is saying is absolutely true! Jesus then explains, "I say unto you." Folks it is time to get quiet and listen to Jesus! This is what He was saying here. Jesus used this expression ("I say unto you") many times throughout His sermon (Matt. 5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44). He used this expression to confirm that what He says stands above what the Pharisees have taught and said about the Mosaic Law. His Word is above their words! By the way, all that really matters is what Jesus says! What He says goes! Away with the opinions of man and secularism. "But I say" means that Jesus sought to clarify exactly what the law of Moses required. He was not contrasting His interpretation with Moses' teaching but with the limited and exaggerated interpretation of the scribes and Pharisees.

Jesus also said "Ye have heard" (what the Pharisees taught – Matt. 5:27, 33, 38, 43) or "It hath been said" (what the Pharisees spoke - Matt. 5:31). Jesus was referring

to how the Pharisees had misrepresented the Law and assigned different meanings and linked traditions to it. He was actually correcting the perversions of the Law perpetrated by the religious teaching of His day. By introducing His statement with “I say to you” (Matt. 5:18), Jesus confirmed the special importance of what He was about to say. This was a strong and intense term that affirmed what was correct. Jesus was saying, “I say this to you absolutely, without qualification and with the fullest authority.”

What did Jesus mean by the jot and tittle? The jot is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet; the tittle is a small mark or projection that serve to distinguish one letter from another. For example, in our understanding of English today, a tittle would be how the bottom stroke of a capital “E” distinguishes it from a capital “F.” Jesus was saying that He taught and upheld the Old Testament down to the smallest features of the Hebrew letters that the writers used as they composed the original autographs. This verse is a strong testimony to the verbal inspiration of Scripture. Divine inspiration extends to the words, even the letters, in the original texts! We must never distort or omit even the smallest part of Scripture.

This also gives us the impression that Jesus certainly believed in the literal inspiration of the Bible, even in what might seem small unimportant details. Nothing in Scripture, even the smallest Hebrew stroke, is without significance!

2 Timothy 3:16

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Since all of the law would be fulfilled down to the minutest detail, this means that all of it was true, down to every word! This verse is a strong testimony to the verbal inspiration of Scripture (which means every spoken word in the Bible is inspired). This divine inspiration extends to the words, even the letters, in the original texts as the authors gave them.

This verse also argues for the plenary inspiration of Scripture (which means all parts and words of the Bible are equally inspired). Inspiration extends to all parts of the

Old Testament. God inspired all of it down to the very words and projections in lines that the writers used.

The Jewish rabbis had graded the Old Testament commands according to which they believed were more authoritative and which were less authoritative. Jesus corrected this view. He taught that all were equally authoritative. Over and over again, Jesus confirmed the inspiration, accuracy, and the authenticity of the Old Testament. He confirmed the standard of marriage that God established in the Garden of Eden between Adam and Eve (Matt. 19:4), the murder of Abel (Luke 11:51), Noah and the flood (Matt. 24:38–39), Abraham and his faith (John 8:56), Sodom, Lot, and Lot's wife (Luke 17:29), the call of Moses (Mark 12:26), the manna from heaven (John 6:31, 58), and the bronze serpent (John 3:14).

This book (the Bible) is true from cover to cover for Jesus said it was! I'm amazed at how some Christians are denying the literal account of Adam and Eve, the Global Flood of Genesis, and the literal seven-day creation of the universe. We live in a time of doubt, denial, and doctrinal delusion today.

The Christian website BioLogos claims that God is an evolutionary Creator. I just went to their site this week and here is what they have to say:

- We believe that God created the universe, the earth, and all life over billions of years.
- We affirm evolutionary creation, recognizing God as Creator of all life over billions of years.
- We seek truth, ever learning as we study the natural world and the Bible.

This is putting man's ideas and philosophies (pseudo-science) before God's eternal truth. It's trying to integrate man's opinions into God's unchanging Word! It's putting a question mark where God has put a period! It's asking the age-old devilish question: "Yea hath God said?" (Gen. 3:1). This is what is happening today. Christians are beginning to jettison important truth found in God's Word and they are rejecting the total inerrancy of the Bible – the Bible is without error in all facts, details, geography, cosmology, science, etc.

Here is my point (Jesus point!) If all will be fulfilled in relation to the law, it means that all of it is true, as written and recorded in the Bible. Jesus in essence is saying, "I am not against the Bible. I am absolutely, 100% for it!" And I came here to TEACH it to you and LIVE it before you! Can you say this today? I'm amazed at popular speakers who are not promoting the inerrancy of our Bible today.

What is happening in Evangelicalism today? In Andy Stanley's sermon, "The Bible told me so," He begins by quoting the beloved song, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so," and says, "This is where our problem began." In other words, our problem began with "The Bible tells me so."

No! The problem begins with Stanley's view of the Bible and how he has been articulating this view the past several years. Stanley says the song is fine for children but not appropriate for adults. Really? I know that Jesus loves me for the Bible does tell me so! And it's because of God's written revelation (special revelation) that I can know of God's love! Without the revelation of the Bible, nothing we say has any authority! Folks, evangelicalism had better stop throwing the Bible under the bus!

Stanley believes we have been naively taught, "'The Bible says it, that settles it' and that kind of simplistic reasoning is why many walk away from the faith as adults." Sometimes we need to blow the whistle on popular speakers of our own day. Andy Stanley is one of them who has more recently cast a shadow on the Bible by his strange statements. There are times when a popular speaker might misspeak and he needs to retract what he says and wash out his mouth with spiritual soap! However, I have never heard Stanley retract his words; therefore, he must wholeheartedly embrace what he shared with thousands of people. When we say things and influence untold number of people, we are open to be examined for what we say.

And no, I'm not guilty of "taking his words out of context" which is the famous counter argument that people use when they in one sense worship celebrity preachers and writers. Popular speakers make great blunders sometime. Just like politicians do.

The context is the resurrection and salvation and here is what Stanley said.

“We believe Jesus rose from the dead not because the Bible says so. It is way better than that! Christianity does not hang by the thread of ‘The Bible told me so’.”

And: “The original version [of Christianity], the pre-Bible version, was defensible, it was enduring, it was persecutable, it was fearless, it was compassionate, and it was compelling,” but he claims “it is next to impossible to defend the entire Bible.”

He also states:

“For the first 300 years of the existence of Christianity, the debate centered on an event, not a book.”

This certainly is not true. The early church possessed the Scriptures, through the authority of the apostles and their writings which were circulating among the churches. But this is the kind of talk that is coming out of evangelical circles today. It’s as if Stanley is apologizing for the Bible! Andy made the decision to move away from such expressions as, “the Bible says” and “the Bible tells me so.”

He claims to believe in the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy. However, his own words seem to defy what he claims to actually believe. Stanley cannot have it both ways. A Bible that cannot be used to confirm truth is a Bible that is suspect of truth. And a Bible that has no authority on all matters of doctrine, science, and history is a Bible that is not true.

In his sermon, Andy Stanley says:

“Christianity does not exist because of the Bible any more than you exist because of your birth certificate. Your birth certificate documents something that happened.”

This kind of logic minimizes the uniqueness of the Word of God and is right out of the classic, theological, liberal playbook. The Bible is the Word of God only as it applies to our life. Folks, the Bible is the Bible for it is God’s Word! And Romans 10:17 says, “Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” 2 Timothy 3:15 declares: “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which

are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” Do we need the Bible to be saved? Yes!

Sometimes we don't realize what is happening behind the evangelical scene today. We turn a blind eye to it. But in trying to impress Millennials who are not really interested in the Bible, we are hearing these types of statements from well-known TV personalities.

H. Wayne House wrote:

“The doctrine of inerrancy is foundational to all other Christian doctrines, and can never be set aside without great peril to the Church. Without Scripture being without error, an interpreter of Scripture could never be sure what teaching of the Bible should be believed. In accepting the teaching of the Word of God on inerrancy, we can be confident that what God has revealed to us is in fact truthful and reliable regarding what we believe and how we live.”

Again, Jesus said in Matthew 5:18:

“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Think of this. Since all of the law would be fulfilled down to the minutest detail, this means that all of it was true, down to every word! Jesus said that all of the OT Scriptures would be fulfilled for He viewed them as being fully and equally inspired and factually true, without error, down to the smallest letter.

If the Old Testament contains any errors, we must conclude one of two things about Jesus Christ. One possibility is that He was ignorant of those errors, in which case He was not omniscient and was therefore not God. The other possibility is that He knew of the errors but denied them, in which case He would have been a liar and a hypocrite, and therefore not holy God.

I want you to know that not a single letter or stroke of God's Word is missing and this speaks to the Bible's truthfulness, authenticity, inspiration, inerrancy, infallibility, and preservation! For this reason, James 1:21 says that we should

“receive with meekness the engrafted (implanted) word, which is able to save your souls.”

Jesus goes on to say that God will preserve His Law until everything in it has happened or is fulfilled as prophesied (“Till heaven and earth pass” – Matt. 5:18). In other words, just as SURE and CONSTANT as the universe is, so the Law is. Its words and truth will remain SURE and CONSTANT until everything has been fulfilled by Christ.

Luke 16:17 explained Jesus’ words like this:

“And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass (away), than one tittle of the law to fail.”

Think of this, Jesus was saying that the Bible (in this case the OT Scriptures) is as sure and stable as the universe and would remain constant and intact like the universe, down to every little and minute detail, even as the universe is held together by its minute atomic structure. Hebrews 1:3 declares that Christ “upholdeth all things by the word of his power” and the same is true regarding the Scriptures. Jesus upholds the Bible preserving its full inspiration and inerrancy. According to Jesus none of these words of the Bible are lost, even as the atomic structure of the universe is not lost!

I was doing some research this week that blew away my mind! Let me read what I discovered about atomic structure. “You do not know what stuff is, you who hold it in your hands. Atoms? Yes, stuff is made of atoms. And every atom is a nucleus orbited by electrons. Every nucleus is built of protons. Every proton is - but there you reach the end of the line. Inside the proton lies the deep, unsettling truth: Stuff is made of nothing, or almost nothing, held together by glue, lots of glue.

“Now a new exotic particle has been hiding out amidst the gobs of data collected by the world's largest atom smasher, physicists have discovered. The new particle, called Ds3 is a type of unstable particle made of one quark and one antiquark which carries a fractional electric charge. Quarks are subatomic particles and are the most basic building blocks of matter that make up protons and neutrons. They're held together by the strong interaction, or strong force, that is one of the four

fundamental forces in nature such as electromagnetism and gravity. No stable form of matter would exist without the strong interaction holding it together.

“Strong interaction is perfectly understood in principle, but physicists have yet to solve the equations that describe it. Strong interaction is such a powerful force that it accounts for more of the mass in an atom than the quarks themselves. The equation behind the force is incredibly complex. Physicists and mathematicians have grappled with it for years, and now, the most sophisticated computers are trying to crack it. The new particle could get scientists closer to solving the equation.”

Dear friend, no mathematical equation will ever figure out what actually keeps everything together. This is because God is not a mathematical equation! Hebrews 1:3 declares that Christ “upholdeth all things by the word of his power.” Jesus is the superglue of the universe! Christ’s miraculous cohesion of the atomic structure of the universe keeps the universe from exploding into oblivion. He is the One who keeps it together with quarks and atoms. Thank God for every quark and atom that somehow works together and remains constant and keeps the atomic structure of the universe together or else the universe would explode into oblivion. But in a similar way, I thank God for every Word of the Bible which remains constant and intact by being preserved for us by God which in return keeps God’s truth in existence for us today. This is what Jesus was teaching. Just as constant and sure as the universe is, so is my Word! Therefore, I will fulfill all of the law that God gave.

Matthew 5:18

“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Here is Jesus’ point. The heavens would exist just as sure as God’s law would exist (indicating inspiration, inerrancy and preservation of God’s law) until it would be totally and completely fulfilled in Christ. The fulfillment of the Mosaic Law in Christ is just as sure and constant as the universe! It will remain intact! This means that God's purposes revealed in the Law must be carried out and will be carried out in fulfillment through Christ. In this verse Jesus is saying God’s Word is as stable and

unchanging as the universe. However, later on in Matthew He takes this even a step further.

Matthew 24:35

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

The words of Jesus, which are recorded in the Bible would even outlast the universe! They not only can be compared to the constancy of the universe as we know it today, but God’s Word will continue to exist even after the universe is destroyed and a new one is created.

1 Peter 1:24-25 declares:

“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

Do we need the Bible? Yes, for people need the Gospel! And will the Bible always be around for us? Yes. This is God’s promise! So we can say, “Thus saith the Lord in the Bible” and must say “Thus saith the Lord” for we have no other authority!

2 Peter 3:7

“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

This is what Jesus was talking about. Until heaven and earth pass away represents the end of time as we know it, the end of our present earthly history. Since God’s Word is enduring as the universe, the law would be fulfilled in Christ. God’s law is just as sure to remain intact as the universe will remain intact. However, the truth about Jesus Christ would even outlast the universe, which someday will cease to exist. This is because its truth is more absolute and permanent than the universe!

Getting back to Matthew 5:18, Jesus is simply saying that all of the law would be fulfilled in His life, death, and resurrection just as sure as the universe would remain in existence. Of course, the fulfillment of the Law in relation to Himself is what Christ is speaking about. Jesus fulfilled the *moral* law of God in living out a perfect

life, He fulfilled the *judicial* law in His crucifixion on the cross, taking the penalty that the law commanded for its violation, and He fulfilled the *ceremonially* law by becoming the fulfillment of all the OT sacrifices, and in a general way He fulfilled the *prophetic* nature of the law when entering the world as the Messiah and dying on the cross.

The point Jesus made when talking about the “jot” and “tittle” is that without the smallest exception, every commandment, every prophecy, every figure and symbol and type would be accomplished or fulfilled by Christ and in Christ. The word “fulfilled” (Matt. 5:17-18) means to bring about what was forecast in the OT regarding Jesus Christ – His life, works, death, resurrection, and ascension). Jesus is teaching the literal fulfillment of the Old Testament. He taught that everything in the Law (Old Testament) would be fulfilled literally and perfectly before the heavens and earth, as we know them, could melt away and be destroyed. According to our understanding, the universe is something that is constant, stable, and sure. The same is true regarding God’s Law and its fulfillment in Christ.

What the Old Testament (the Law and Prophets) taught regarding Christ remains relevant until all is accomplished or fulfilled (Matt. 5:18). This means that the Old Testament serves as a beacon or shining light that Jesus is the One who provides the fulfillment of all the messianic promises in His life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

This reminds me of what Jesus said in Luke 16:31:

“And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”

Jesus taught that hearing God’s Word is vitally important. If people reject the quotations and teachings of God’s Word, then they have nothing to save them, guide them, or give them absolute truth or lasting fulfillment in life. This is why we need to stay with “The Bible tells me so!” This is why we need to keep saying, “Yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so!” Jesus taught, “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Without the inspired document of the Bible, our words are worthless! They are meaningless. They have no authority.

A preacher once said, "The one thing I've learned is that when you get into the pulpit you've got to somehow communicate without using the Bible, because the Bible turns people off. I've spent a long time developing the ability to communicate to people without ever using the Bible. I started out in my ministry saying this verse says this and this verse says that, and I finally realized that wouldn't get me anywhere. Now I say it in my own way and people will accept it."

What that would-be preacher said is true in one respect. Many people today are very much turned off by the Bible. But people being turned off by God's Word has always been true and it's no excuse to not use the Bible. The Bible has been turning off unbelievers for thousands of years. Many people today, just as in Jesus' day, and in the days of Moses and of the prophets, would much rather hear the opinions of men than the Word of God. But the opinions and philosophies of man cannot lead people to the truth or to salvation. Man's philosophies and opinions which do not square with Scripture will often leave men superficially content and satisfied, but man's ideas will also leave them in darkness and sin.

The purpose of Christ's mission to earth was to "fulfill" the Word of God (Matt. 5:17-18). This should be our desire as well. We should want to do God's Word and through our life, let others see it being fulfilled in our own personal lives. Christ fulfilled the law in His teachings and conduct. Christ's great attentiveness to the Word of God, to fulfill it in every detail, reminds us of the importance of adhering to God's truth tenaciously and wholeheartedly. The Word must be that which guides our every thought, word, and deed.

Psalm 119:105 reminds us:

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet (to guide my steps in my daily decisions), and a light unto my path" (to guide me in the general path He wants me to walk).

I was in a store not long ago and I saw a plaque which actually had this verse wrong. It said, "Thy word is light unto my path and a lamp unto my feet." Folks, we need the LAMP before we can get the LIGHT. And the lamp is God's unchanging truth as found in the Bible. Here is the promise. God's Word acts as both a specific and general guide in my life. In every way it gives me direction and guidance for daily decisions, directions, and the distinct ways that I need to go in life. As God children,

we must let the Word of God be our guide, since it is the only guide that can be trusted! We owe much to the friendly beam of this lamp! We are to allow God's truth to guide us and we must make the decision to live by the truth of God's Word. All other ground is sinking sand! When we try to do it our way, we begin to sink into the world system.

I remember watching some of the old movies where people would become stuck in quicksand. It seems that sooner or later they ended up in a jungle somewhere and would fall into the quicksand and become so stuck that they needed to be rescued by the hero of the movie.

Maybe this is you today? You have become stuck into the mold of the world. Romans 12:2 says we should not be "conformed (molded) to the world." Perhaps you feel like you are sinking deeper and deeper. You are stuck in the system of the world. If this is your predicament today, let God's truth revive your heart and guide you into a new way of living and new start in life. As Christ came to do and fulfill God's Word, so we must live with this mindset on a daily basis. We should want to practice the truth and let it reshape and redirect our lives.

1 John 5:3

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."