

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

Vol. 30 No. 3

July 2017

George L. Faull, Editor

MATTHEW 5:17-19 RE: THE LAW

Dear Brother Faull,

I have a good friend who's out of the country for his job and is messaging me with questions about Matthew 5:17-19 and the law. I'd like to send him a concise organized teaching about it. He is teaching a Jewish person about Jesus, which led him to his own questions. Can you provide an answer that focuses on this?

ANSWER:

The Bible tells us to compare spiritual things with spiritual things. There are four gospels with a purpose. Some additional information is found in other Gospels to harmonize the difficult one we may be reading. Let's take the first verse. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, OR THE PROPHETS; I am not come to destroy but to fulfill."



A man courts a girl and she comes to love him and accepts his proposal for marriage. Her little brother loves him greatly but he cries and cries when someone told him that his sister's friend is not going to be engaged to his sister anymore.

He misunderstands and asks him, "Is it true you're not going to be by sister's fiancé anymore?"

The man sets down and explains to the boy. "No, she will not be my fiancé anymore and we will not be engaged anymore. I am going to fulfill the promise I made to her when we became engaged. Tomorrow she will be my wife and you will be my brother-in-law. I am not destroying the engagement, I am fulfilling it by making my fiancé my wife". Oh, how happy the boy is to know what it means to "fulfill" instead of "destroying" or "breaking" the engagement. So Christ fulfills the Law and the prophets. He makes them true as promised.

And as we notice above, more is added in the other gospel. One says, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled". That sounds like heaven and earth is going to pass before all is fulfilled. But no, in no wise would these

things not be fulfilled. Let's read it in the other Gospel. **Luke 16:17**, "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." He had just said in the preceding verse, "...the law and the prophets were until John; since that time the kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it."

If I say, "Hell will freeze over before I deny the Lord", is not a promise that Hell will ever freeze over. Jesus is saying "It would be easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the Law and prophets to fail".

As for verse 19, it is not speaking of the Old Testament commandments but rather the commandments he had been giving in the Beatitudes. And in verse 20 he says that "our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, or you (plural) shall in no case enter the kingdom of heaven".

He then shows the commandments the Pharisees kept were surface obedience to the old law, but Jesus shows the law is much deeper and must affect the heart and our emotions. The man who keeps the beatitudes and lives and teaches them, will be called great in the Kingdom; the man who breaks them, will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Which would you prefer to see in your children, the attitudes of the beatitudes or that of a Pharisee who was a superficial keeper of the commandments of the law? Jesus gave the beatitudes so we would not be like the scribes and Pharisees who were "letter of the law people", but those who practice the beatitudes are "Spirit of the law people". They are "keepers of the intent of the law".

Jesus' teaching fulfills the law. The people who are fortunate enough to recognize the spiritual poverty of their souls, and mourn for their sins, and have meekness (strength under control) and who hunger and thirst for righteousness, are merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, suffer persecution for righteousness sake and are able to rejoice for suffering for their lifestyle are the kind of people who preserve the world like salt. As light they cannot be hid. Their good works bring glory to the Father in Heaven.

That sure does not destroy the Law, but fulfills it.

Who You Courtin'?

-- By George L. Faulk

One of our students wondered why a woman is used as a symbol or illustration of wisdom in **Proverbs 8**. God uses a beautiful woman as an illustration of wisdom because He wishes to show that wisdom desires you to court her and find life. On the other hand, God shows His competitor as a whorish, strange woman who seduces fools to her bed and final death. God uses this contrast between two women. We will call them "Miss Wisdom" and "Mrs. Strange".

Let's see the contrast:

Miss Wisdom is highlighted in **Proverbs 1:20-33, 3:13-18, 4:5-13, 8:1-36, 9:1-12**.

Mrs. Strange is highlighted in **Proverbs 2:16-19, 5:3-23, 6:24-35, 7:5-27, 9:13-18**.

Let's See the Contrasts Between Them:

MISS WISDOM

Public Call – 1:20-22, 8:1

In Daylight in the Courts/Gates

Method: Promises are positive, spiritual, and physical advantages – 1:33

Her Speech – Excellent things, right things, truth, righteousness, wickedness abomination to my lips, nothing perverse - 8:6-9

Her Offer Results

Spirit of wisdom
Warns against calamity
Counsel
Reproof
Safety
Calmness
Long life
Riches
Honor
Peace
Happiness
Tree of Life
Promotion of grace
Crown of Glory
Straight paths
Righteousness
Fruit better than gold, silver, rubies
Inherit substance
Full treasures
Blessings
Favor of the Lord
Life
Health
Salvation

MRS. STRANGE

Private Seduction – 7:6

In Darkness on the Street Corners – 7:7-15

Method: With subtly and flattery offers fleshly desires/pleasures - 7:16-18

Her Speech – Is loud, stubborn, subtle, flattering lies in seduction, vulgarity.

Her Offer Results

Great folly
End as bitter as wormwood
Not obeying the voice of teachers nor instructors
Despises reproof
Held by cords of sins
Anxiety
The grave
Brought down to a piece of bread
Giveth honor to others
Fear of irate husband
Anxiety from being exposed
Eat Fruit of own way
Shame, Contempt
Everlasting agony and dishonor
Cannot take hold of the paths of life
Wickedness
End is destruction
Strangers will get your wealth
Labors go to strangers
Cursed of God
Wrongs his own soul
Goes down to death
Flesh and body consumed
Damnation in Hell

Which Woman are You Courting?

The Lady, Miss Wisdom?

OR

The Adulterous, Mrs. Strange?

At Which Table Do You Feed?

Miss Wisdom's Banquet of Life

OR

Mrs. Strange's Stolen Secret Bread

Remember

Miss Wisdom will laugh at you when your fear cometh if you disregard her.

Mrs. Strange will lead you to the grave.

Miss Wisdom is a tree of Life to those who takes hold upon her & happy is he that retains her.

Lust not after her beauty, neither let her take thee with her eyelids. Her house is the way to Hell going down to the chambers of death and many strong men have been slain by her.

CONCLUSION: Miss Wisdom says, **Proverbs 8:32-36**, "32 Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. 33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. 34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. 35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. 36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death."

Thoughts From Kendall

--By Kendall Faulk

Top Ten Problems in Churches Today:

1. Encouragement without rebuke.
2. Faith without works.
3. Zeal without knowledge.
4. Knowledge without love.
5. Programs without purpose.
6. Sermons without Scripture.
7. Entertainment without edification.
8. Conversions without commitment.
9. Baptisms without discipleship.
10. Leaders without accountability.

Father, forgive us where we have failed You and empower us by Your grace to be more of what You desire each day.

God's Character:

This has been my understanding of God's character as long as I can remember.

God will Not:

1. Always act in a way you understand.
2. Always act when you want Him to.
3. Lie
4. Break a promise.
5. Be unjust.
6. Be unloving.
7. Be unmerciful.
8. Be unfaithful.
9. Abandon his own.
10. Stay in a relationship with you if you disown Him.
11. Leave saints' needs unmet nor sinner's sins unpunished forever.
12. Lose. He always wins in the end!



Dear Brother Faull,

I would be curious how you would answer the following question:

If baptism is essential for salvation and we can lose our salvation by sinning, then why are people not constantly being baptized to obtain salvation again?



ANSWER:

Baptism is where one enters into Christ. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Galatians 3:27

It is then a covenant relationship where one receives the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture tells us in **2 Timothy 2:12-13**, "12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: 13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."

Now for Him to be faithful, what must He do when we deny Him and no longer believe? He is faithful and ALSO will deny us.

However, if one confesses his sin, He is faithful and will forgive us our sins. Baptism is not necessary again for once a man is born again he needs not be born again.

If he was buried with Him, he does not need to be baptized and risen again from the dead. There is one rebirth and one death.

Peter told Simon the sorcerer to repent and pray that the thought of his heart may be forgiven. If there is repentance and confession, there is forgiveness given through the blood of Christ, Who is our advocate.

He that confesses and forsakes his sin shall be forgiven but he that covers his sin shall not prosper.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."
Proverbs 28:13

Many people are re-baptized because they cannot believe they did what they did or if they were sincere.

But if the original conversion was real, repentance and

confession results the same as when they entered the covenant initially.

If you sin against your wife, a remarriage is not necessary; just repentance and confession. Repentant prayers of confession keeps one in a blood covenant with the Lord.

This is why the Lord's Supper is so wonderful when we think back to what He did, forward to His coming, upward to His sitting on God's right-hand as High Priest making intercession, inward to our conscience, and outward to the needs of others.

When this is not done, many become spiritually sick, weak and die. If we judge ourselves we will not be condemned with the world. It is the blood of the covenant and where there is an appeal to the blood, there is forgiveness.

Only the ignorant or the insincere, or the mis-instructed would feel that baptism again is in order.

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A Christian's Weather Forecast....

God REIGNS – the Son SHINES – Expect SHOWERS of Blessings and for those stormy days when life doesn't seem like a "bed of roses".... Remember Who wore the thorns!

What You Taught Us

By Terry Carter

I wrote the following poem for my mother, Georgiena Mae Carter, on Memorial Day, May 29, 2017. She had gone on hospice just three days before. She went to be with the Lord just five days later. I read this poem at her funeral the following week.

She had always wanted to be a teacher. That is a dream that she never fulfilled professionally. However, she taught her children, and anyone else who would listen, a great deal about some of the most important things in life.

As was said at her funeral, she didn't just raise children, she raised Christians.

Furthermore, both my father and stepfather owe their salvation primarily to her influence. She taught Sunday school since she was a teenager and also VBS.

I provide the reader with this bit of information so that you can better appreciate the thrust of the poem.

As with most poems of this sort, some of the lines are much more meaningful for those who knew her best. Although I penned this poem, it is really a thank you note from all of her children and ought to be read as such.

To Our Mother and Finest Teacher By Your Grateful Children and Students

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her" Proverbs 31:18 NKJV

You taught us how to crawl, walk, and run
When to work and when to have fun.

You changed our diapers and wiped our noses
While teaching us to stop and smell the roses.

You washed our faces and cleaned our clothes
While teaching us not to watch just any television shows.

You fed us well and brushed our hair
While teaching us to always play fair.

You taught us how to know wrong from right
When to walk away and when to stand and fight.

You disciplined us by spanking our rears and boxing our ears
You comforted us by calming our fears and wiping our tears.

You taught us the value of a good book
How to straighten out a child with just a look.

You taught us to love the greatest Book of all
How to walk with the Lord and get up after a fall.

You taught us how to sing and how to pray
How to start and end each day.

You showed us the strength that comes from faith
You taught us to endure the storms while still feeling safe.

You taught us the importance of our work at school
How not to act or live like a fool.

You taught us how to count and how to spell
While kissing our knees each time we fell.

You taught us how to write and how to read
How to be content with only what you need.

You taught us that until you know what the important things are
You will never be able to get very far.

You taught us to solve for ourselves the problems we had made
To deal with them and not to be afraid.

You taught us how to face your problems and stand up tall
What to do to avoid taking a fall.

You taught us of hard work not to be afraid
That is how dreams into reality are made.

You taught us how to speak your mind and have no fear
How to be honest with those you hold dear.

You taught us how to laugh and how to smile
How to boldly face each and every mile.

You taught us how to learn what is already known
And also how to reason and think on your own.

You taught us that money can be a useful tool
But pursuing it alone will make you a fool.

You taught us the value of family and friends
How to leave a legacy that never ends.

You taught us how to face good health and bad
How to deal with the happy and the sad.

You taught us how to win without any brag
How to be loose gracefully when behind you lag.

You taught us how to laugh and how to cry
How to live, love, and finally die.

Though you never taught as your profession
That we learned the most from you is our confession.

Concerning Your Gifts

It is ridiculous to say “you can do nothing” as to say “you can do everything”.

Father / Son / Holy Spirit – Each gave gifts.

Spiritual Gifts



BY THEIR VERY NATURE, A GIFT, IS NOT EARNED BUT IS OF GRACE.

Ephesians 3:7, “Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.”

Acts 9:15, “But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:”

- × Our gifts are all of grace.

GIFTS ARE USUALLY GIVEN ACCORDING TO ONES ABILITY TO HANDLE IT.

I Peter 4:11, “If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it as of the ability which God giveth*: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- × Would you give a gun to a 6 year old?
- × If our gift does not glorify God we are not mature enough to manage the gift.

Matthew 25:15, “And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; **to every man according to his several ability**; and straightway took his journey.”

Exodus 35:30-34, “30 And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; 32 And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, 33 And in the cutting of stones, to set *them*, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work. 34 And **he hath put in his heart that he may teach**, *both* he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.”

GIFTS USUALLY DIFFER IN VALUE AND PURPOSE.

Romans 12:6, “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;”

- × Let us do what we can do.
- × Body illustration. The eye is not all there is to the body.

I Corinthians 7:7, “For I would that all men were even as I myself. But **every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.**”

- × Recognize others have gifts that we do not.

I Corinthians 12:4, “**Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.**”

- × Theirs came from Spirit too!

I Corinthians 12:28-29, “28 And God hath set some in the church, **first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?**”

- × All members are important to the body. If true of the miraculous gifts, it is true of any gift.
- × All for the want of a nail; the shoe, the horse, the man, and the battle was lost!!!
- × Roofing nail; not doing it's work – ruins the carpet.

A GIFT MAY BE GIVEN TO BE USED BY THE RECEIVER TO BLESS OTHERS.

Ephesians 4:11-12, “11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, **for the edifying of the body of Christ.**”

- × This is the purpose of all gifts God gave.
- × What are you doing for Heaven's sake?

A GIVER OF A GIFT MAY GIVE WHAT HE WISHES TO WHOM HE WISHES.

I Corinthians 12:8-11, “8 **For to one is given by the Spirit** the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, **dividing to every man severally as he will.**”

- × This stops jealousy, envy, pride.
- × No superiority, inferiority complexes.
- × No gift or rewards – Apostle never decided.

THOSE WHO PRETEND A FALSE GIFT IS A FALSE HOPE.

Proverbs 25:14, "Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift *is like clouds and wind without rain.*"

- × Deliver us from those who claim to have great talents and do not.
- × Brother Ira singing in the choir.

TO NOT ACCEPT A GIFT IS TO REFUSE THE GIVER.

Genesis 33:10, "And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefor I have seen thy face, as though it had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me."

Jeremiah 14:12, "When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them; but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence."

Malachi 1:8, 13, "8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it now unto they governor; will he be pleased with thee or accept your person? saith the Lord of hosts. 13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness *is it!* And ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts; and ye brought *that which was torn*, and the lame, and the sick thus ye brought an offering; **should I accept this of your hand?** saith the Lord."

- × Woman who rejects the gift rejects the suitor.

TO NOT USE THE GIFT IS UNTHANKFULNESS AND MUST NOT BE NEGLECTED.

I Timothy 4:14, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

Matthew 25:25-26, "25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth; lo, there thou hast *that is thine*. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, **Thou wicked and slothful servant**, thou knewest that I reaped where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:"

- × To neglect is not a light sin. How shall we escape if we neglect?
- × If you do not use it, you lose it!

THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR BEING PUFFED UP FOR A POSSESSION OF THAT WHICH WAS GIVEN TO YOU BY GRACE.

I Corinthians 4:6-7, "6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself, and to Apollos, for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of *men* above that which is written, **that no one of you be puffed up for one against another**. 7 For who maketh thee to differ *from another?* and **what hast thou that**

now if thou didst receive *it*, why does thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it?*"

- × What you have is a gift. Why be proud?
- × Gifts are not rewards, earned, or deserved – Not of debt.

Romans 12:3, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, **according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**"

James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variablesness, neither shadow of turning."

Matthew 23:19, "Ye fools and blind: for **whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?**"

WE ARE STEWARDS OF THE GIFT GIVEN.

I Peter 4:10, "As every man hath received the gift, *even* so minister the same one to another, **as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**"

II Timothy 1:6, "Wherefore I have put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up the gift of God**, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands."

- × A fire sometimes must be stirred.

I Corinthians 4:1-2, "1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and **stewards of the mysteries of God**. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

- × Poor stewards are punished!

TO USE A GIFT WITHOUT LOVE IS VAIN.

I Corinthians 13:2, "And though I have *the gift of* prophesy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, **and have not charity, I am nothing.**"

- × Your gift is worthless unless motivated by love.
- × People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.

What's Your Talent?

Shamgar had an OXGOAD
David had a SLING
Dorcas had a NEEDLE
Rahab had a STRING
Mary had some OINTMENT
Moses had a ROD
Have you some small talent,
That You will dedicate to God?



The Wisdom of Solomon

By Terry Carter

In **1 Kings 3:16-28** we read about an event that demonstrated the amazing wisdom that God had granted to King Solomon.

Two harlots who lived together came to him with one son. They both claimed that the other had smothered their son while sleeping and switched the babies while the other slept. There was nobody else in the house but the two women and their sons.



How could Solomon possibly decide who was telling the truth and who was lying?

Of course, Solomon said the child should be cut in half so that both would get their half of the living child. The one who was lying thought that was a good plan, but the real mother pleaded that the child be given to the other woman rather than killing him.

This event surely shows just how wonderful that Solomon's wisdom was. I can remember learning it as a small child myself. I remember being on the edge of my seat waiting to hear how he was going to decide such an impossible case. But there is much more to learn about here than just the extent of Solomon's wisdom.

It is clear to me that the woman who was lying was not interested in having the other woman's son for herself. She was perfectly content to let the child die. Obviously, she just couldn't bear to see the other woman with a son while she had none herself.

In other words, she thought, "If I can't have my son, she can't have hers!" But the true mother was passionate in her desire that the boy be allowed to live even if it meant that she was deprived of him as a son. That is, she was willing to sacrifice her own pleasure and satisfaction for the life and well-being of the child.

Solomon knew that this is how a true parent acts. They are not willing to use their child as a tool or pawn to inflict pain or punishment on another. What is best for the child is the most important thing to them. They do not use their child as a means of manipulating others.

I would like to make two applications here briefly:

1. When politicians are willing to divide the country rather than see their political opponents enjoy success, they are not the true guardians of our nation. Their own interests are more important to them than the good of the nation. We should never elect or re-elect such people to office.
2. When people are willing to split the Church rather than see it have success without them being in control, they are not the true guardians of the Lord's Body. They are self-willed and are more concerned about their own reputation, power, and position than the good of God's people. We should never follow such people. We should flee from them.

Paul warned the Ephesian elders that men would rise up even from among themselves who would draw disciples away after themselves. He said that such men were savage wolves who do not spare the flock. It was such an important issue to Paul that he warned them with tears for three years about this danger. **Acts 20:29-31**

Men like this don't care how many sheep they kill as long as they have their own flock. They are not building the Lord's Kingdom, but their own.

When men draw sheep away from the flock, they don't care about the sheep or the flock. These men ought to be marked and avoided, not followed. **Romans 16:17-18**

In politics, we need to ask whether our leaders are more interested in the well-being of the country or their party.

In the Church, we need to ask whether the men we listen to and follow are more interested in the well-being of the flock or are they satisfied to see it divided and destroyed.

Good and honest politicians want the country to prosper even if it means sacrifice for them or their party.

True leaders in the Church want to see the body united and prospering even if it means personal sacrifice for them.

Proverbs 22:24-25, "24 Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, 25 Lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul."

EVER NOTICE THAT.....

Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed and permanently set?

Egotist's are "I" specialists?

Nothing cooks our goose quicker than a short temper?