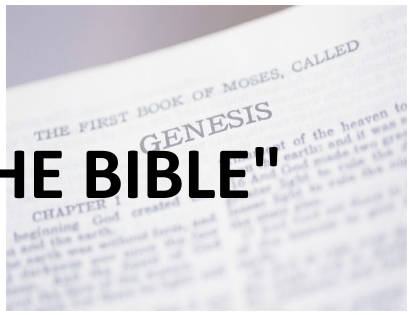


"JESUS UPHOLDS THE BIBLE"

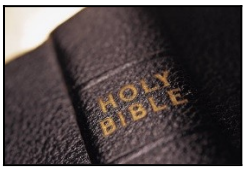
Matthew 5:17-20
3-26-2017

INTRODUCTION:

To be serious about Jesus is to be serious about the Bible - for Jesus upheld the Scripture as the permanent, relevant, and absolute authority.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ taught two vital truths about the Scriptures:

I. ALL of God's Word WILL BE <u>FULFILLED</u> (17-18)

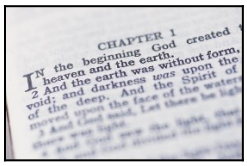


There are 2 aspects to Christ's fulfillment of the O.T. -

1. He "fulfilled all <u>righteousness</u>" (Mt. 3:15) [precept]

2. He fulfilled and will fulfill all <u>promises</u> and <u>predictions</u> [prophecy]

II. All of God's Word IS <u>IMPORTANT</u> (v. 19-20)



"JESUS UPHOLDS THE BIBLE"

Matthew 5:17-20
3-26-2017

INTRODUCTION:

SING Psalm 19:7-11

Quote - Harold J. Berman, professor of law at Harvard (SEE: MacArthur, p. 249-250)

Everyone has a point of reference or a basis upon which ideals are founded. Everyone who espouses a principle or idea supports it by some type of authority or backing.

Some people's belief system (world view) is based upon what:

--The parents said [what their parents held as true]

--The teacher said [what their teacher told them (Harvard, Columbia, Yale)]

--The philosopher said [what the famous philosopher thought (Plato, Socrates)]

--The society said [what the society accepted]

--The media said [what the newspapers, TV, radio, and magazines presented]

--Their religion [what their particular religion espouses]

--They think [they are their own authority)

I choose to base my world view and beliefs on what GOD has said in His trustworthy Word.

All of our Christian beliefs are based on the Bible
"The Bible is our only rule for faith and practice"

Can God produce a Book so that people might know who He is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will yet do?

2 Tim. 3:16

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

Definition of Inspiration: ***Inspiration describes the unique process of the Holy Spirit in which He controlled and directed the hearts, minds, and wills of chosen men as they wrote exactly and totally what God wanted, so that the original manuscript was without error or omission.***

False Views of Inspiration:

1. Liberal view - the Bible is not inspired by God.

They would say:
"The Bible is only a remarkable human book - authored by men."

*The term used to describe this view would be "Natural Inspiration." The Bible was produced by religious men who followed their intuition in collecting and piecing together good religious statements.

They would say: "The Bible is `inspired' in the same sense as Shakespeare's writings or Beethoven's music."

2. Neo-Orthodox view - the Bible can become inspired by God.

They would say:
"When the Scriptures speak to an individual, it becomes the Word of God to him at that point."

*The term used to describe this view would be "Potential Inspiration."

Carl Barth, the father of neo-orthodoxy, believed that the Bible uniquely reveals God to man--not in propositions about God, but as a means of personal encounter by God with man in an act of revelation. In this existential experience--crisis encounter--the meaningless ink blots on the pages leap from the Bible to speak to man concretely and meaningfully. At this "moment of meaning" the Bible becomes the Word of God to the individual. (Geisler & Nix, p. 40).

3. New-Evangelical view - the Bible is partially inspired by God.

NOTE: Not all new-evangelicals deny the Biblical doctrine of inspiration, but many do.

*The term used to describe this view would be "Partial Inspiration."

This view has many varieties:

a. **Illumination theory** - God gave illumination (insight or an intensified religious perception) to the writers of Scripture so that at certain points of their writing, they wrote God's Word (what points? No one knows).

b. **Demythologizing theory** - God inspired the truths found in the Bible. They say that the true Bible is found by removing the cultural myths (EX: miracles) (Bultmann).

c. **Concept theory** - God inspired the ideas, thoughts, or concepts but not the words.
Each writer was free to record it in his own words. The Spirit did not guide him in his choice of words.

d. **Essential portion theory** - God inspired only portions of Scripture which describe salvation. This view, also held by the Roman Catholic church, says that the Bible is without error in matters central to the Bible, but has errors in "peripheral matter."

Biblical View of Inspiration

2 Tim. 3:16
All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

1. **Definition of Inspiration:** ***Inspiration describes the unique process of the Holy Spirit in which He controlled and directed the hearts, minds, and wills of chosen men as they wrote exactly and totally what God wanted, so that the original manuscript was without error or omission.***

2. **A Breakdown of this Definition:**

--Inspiration was the unique process of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26).

--The Holy Spirit controlled and directed the hearts, minds, and wills of chosen men (II Peter 1:20-21).

--Chosen men wrote exactly and totally what God wanted (II Tim. 3:16).

--The result was that the original manuscript was without error or omission (Mt. 5:17-18; Jn. 10:35).

Even though Scripture came from the very mouth of God, He in His wisdom used the instrumentality of men. God, in using men, controlled and directed them, not stifling their own personalities or using them as machines or robots but as conscious, sober instruments.

On the one hand, while it can be said that man had nothing to do with the production of Scripture (he was passive), on the other hand, he did have an active part in its production.

This is a paradox.

[NOTE: However, man's part was also controlled by God - what occurred was "passive activity," in which God so worked in the writers that He gave them the will and the ability to write what He wanted (cp. Phil. 2:12-13).]

Throughout the entire life of a prophet or apostle, God's providential control prepared him with the particular talents, education, and experience which would be needed for the message which he was to give orally or by writing (Boettner, p. 24).

--God used the extensive education and patience of Moses to write the Pentateuch.

--God made use of the worshipful tender heart of David to write most of the Psalms.

--God employed the wisdom of Solomon to write Proverbs.

--God utilized the heavy heart of Jeremiah to write Lamentations.

--God applied the loving heart of John to write the Gospel and Epistles of love that bear his name.

--God exercised the detailed thinking of Dr. Luke to write Luke and Acts.

--God put into service the logical mind and appropriate religious background of Paul to write Romans and his other deep epistles.

[Remember, however, that it was God who equipped these men with the qualifications and personalities which they had.]

"God is One who in His infinite power can use as His agents and instruments fallible human beings, who can bring into His employ all the gifts, talents, and characteristics of those human beings, and yet can cause them to pen His own Word, and keep that Word utterly separate and distinct from their own sinful nature and the consequent imperfections which are the result of that nature" (Young, Thy Word is Truth, p. 74).

No one can believe that Jesus spoke the truth who denies that the Scriptures are the truth, because Jesus said they were. He defended the Scriptures and affirmed their authority.

Christ's Declaration of Inspiration

1. **Christ accepted the Old Testament as fully authoritative (Lk. 24:44; Mt. 5:18; Lk. 16:31).**

Luke 24:44

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

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.

2. **Christ stated that the Scriptures cannot be broken (Jn. 10:35).**

John 10:35

"...the scripture cannot be broken"

3. **Christ regarded prophecies of Scripture as being certain of fulfillment (Mt. 24:15).**

Matthew 24:15

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

4. **Christ stated that His own words possessed absolute <u>authority</u> (Mt. 24:35; cp. Mt. 7:29).**

Matthew 24:35
Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
Matthew 7:29
For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

5. **Christ <u>pre-authenticated</u> the words of His apostles as being the authoritative, trustworthy words of God (Jn. 17:20).**

John 17:20
Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

He is either Liar (He knew the Scriptures were not absolute truth, but said they were)
Lunatic (He thought the Scripture were absolute truth, but was mistaken) or
Lord (He knew the Scripture were absolute truth (by virtue of Who He was) and boldly stated it)

To be serious about Jesus is to be serious about the Bible - for Jesus upheld the Scripture as the permanent, relevant, and absolute authority.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ taught two vital truths about the Scriptures:

I. ALL of God's Word WILL BE FULFILLED (v. 17-18)

V. 17

"Think not that I am come to destroy the Law" - Jesus, before explaining the O.T. Law and its true meaning, qualifies what He is about to say so as to let everyone know that He was not against the O.T. but 100% for it.

You see, Christ's teachings were radically different (superior) to that of the Scribes and Pharisees. When His message would be compared with that of the religious leaders of the day, the distinctiveness (uniqueness) of Christ's emphasis and application might lead some to the wrong conclusion that He was against Moses and the Prophets.

The repeated phrase "Ye have heard..." followed by "But I say unto you" (v. 21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44) might lead the spiritually illiterate to err in thinking that Christ was opposed to O.T. teaching, when in fact He is for it -- He authored it!

"Destroy" - to abolish, do away with, tear down, annul.

Christ's purpose was definitely not to eradicate the Law (the Pentateuch and the O.T. historical books) and the Prophets, but to show the true meaning of them; i.e. to divinely interpret the O.T.

Jesus had all authority on the matter of interpreting the O.T. because He was the Author of the O.T. ("In the beginning was the Word" - Jn. 1:1), the Theme of the O.T. ("He [Moses] wrote of Me"], and (as He says in this verse) the Fulfillment of the O.T.!

"I came to fulfill" - My purpose in coming to this earth (a hint at Christ's pre-existence) was to fulfill the Law and prophets (i.e. the entire O.T.).

"To fulfill" means to accomplish or carry out. Christ in every way did what the O.T. required in the matter of righteousness and prophetic fulfillment.

There are 2 aspects to Christ's fulfillment of the O.T. -

1. He "fulfilled all righteousness" (Mt. 3:15) [precept]

2. He fulfilled and will fulfill all promises and predictions [prophecy]

1. Christ fulfilled all of the precepts of the O.T.

--He was sinlessly perfect!
--He was morally impeccable
--He was in absolute conformity to the O.T. in every jot and tittle
--He could never be accused of violation of truth or transgression of principle

Jesus could boldly ask and challenge the entire world with this question, "Which of you convinced me of sin?"

Heb. 4:15 - He was "without sin"

Heb. 7:26 - He was "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens"

II Peter 2:22 - He "did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth" (cp. Is. 53:9)

Jesus was the only one who could point out sin in the lives of others without a finger of accusation being pointed back at Him. He was the only one who could rebuke hypocrisy, lawlessness, disobedience, and lies without a guilty smitten conscience

2. Christ fulfilled and will fulfill all of the prophecies of the O.T.

--All prophetic types and foreshadowings (Ex. the sacrificial system)
--All prophetic details of His incarnation, life and ministry
--All prophetic promises of His second coming and eternal rule

Matthew's Gospel (the theme of which is to validate Jesus as the King of the Jews, the promised Messiah) continually records the phrase "That it might be fulfilled" (EX: 26:56)

V. 18
In verse 18, Jesus is teaching that the Bible is a permanent, relevant Book, not ever outdated, always authoritative and applicable.

"Verily" - truly, absolutely, affirmatively, certainly. The Greek word (aman) is a transliteration of the Hebrew "aman" which was used to strengthen or confirm a statement or promise.

"Jesus did not use the word to apply to others but to introduce is own words. This gives strength and authority to what He says" (Linguistic Key, p. 13).

Everything Jesus said was true and authoritive, but He uses the word "truly" to emphasize the absolute trustworthiness of what He is about to say.

"Till heaven and earth pass" - Until the time when this present kosmos goes away.
Heaven and earth will be removed and replaced after the Millennium (Rev. 20:11 - "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them"; Rev. 21:1 - "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.")

God's Word will be fulfilled right up until the end of time.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away" (Mt. 24:35).

"Jot" - Greek iota from the Hebrew yod . This word refers to the smallest Hebrew letter - י (SEE: Ps. 119:73 for an example)

"Tittle" - meaning "horn, projection, or hook as a part of a letter" (BAG). The tittle refers to a part of a letter that distinguishes that letter from another one.

A pen stroke. Something as small as a comma (just as the horizontal line on a "L" and "T" distinguishes it from an "I", so the tittle was a small mark that showed the difference between one letter and another

EX: rash = ר daleth= ד

Everything that Moses and the Prophets originally wrote down -- every sentence, indeed every verse, indeed every word, indeed every letter, indeed the smallest letter, indeed the distinguishing feature of a letter -- all will be fulfilled!

"In no wise" - will by no means. A double negative (ου μη) showing the absolute impossibility of something.

"**Till all be fulfilled**" - every jot and tittle will be fulfilled.

Just as all Scripture is God-breathed (II Tim. 3:16), so all Scripture will be fulfilled.

All of the eschatological prophecies of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Amos, Malachi, etc. will be fulfilled.

Everything will happen just as God promised - Heaven for believers; Hell for

unbelievers

II. All of God's Word IS <u>IMPORTANT</u> (v. 19-20)

V. 19

"Therefore" - Just as everything will be fulfilled, everything <u>should</u> be fulfilled in your life!

"Whosoever" - irregardless of who it is. Anyone! This applies to all believers.

Just as the greatest human leader ever (Moses) faced the stringent consequences for his violation of a command of God, so every infraction of God's moral Law will be rewarded.

"Break" - to release from one's life; to disregard, to dismiss, to ignore and fail to fulfill.

"One of these" - each individual moral command is important. None are insignificant.

"Least" - smallest.

--Even a command which is not frequently reiterated; it may be given only once, yet it is important.

--Even a command which has the least amount of consequences for breaking it.

--Even a command which society views as unimportant or non-essential.

"And shall <u>teach</u> men so" - Both those who <u>violate</u> God's principles and those who <u>teach</u> others to violate them will be culpable.

We must be very careful about what we practice and preach. Teaching is an awesome task! (Ja. 3:1)

"Shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven" -

--Heaven will include people who were <u>saved</u> yet allowed <u>disobedience</u> in their lives while on earth.

--In heaven there will be <u>different</u> <u>ranks</u> of people (Christians are judged to determine reward - I Cor. 3, II Cor. 5)

"He shall be called" - By whom? <u>By God</u>. God determines the esteem (rewards) of people based upon who they obeyed and taught His Word.

Will you be called "least" or "great" in God's Heaven? The answer comes by asking the question, "How serious are you about obeying all of God's Word that you know?"

Those who practice and teach all of God's truth will shine the brightest throughout eternity. This is what Daniel was referring to when he wrote "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

"Greatness is not determined by gifts, success, popularity, reputation, or size of ministry - but by a believer's view of Scripture as revealed in his life and teaching" (MacArthur, p. 272).

What O.T. commands are we obligated to keep? All of the ones that were not limited to a specific person (EX: Abraham) or nation (EX: Israel). EX: If I ask Katie to do something, is Laura responsible to do it? No. So it is with God's commands. I am responsible for what applies to me.

The O.T. contains unchanging moral principles that the N.T. reiterates. These must be obeyed by the motive of love.

Israel's ceremonial Law ended when the veil was rent in two (Mt. 15:38).

Israel's civil (national, governmental) Law ended when she as a nation was temporarily set aside after rejecting Christ as Messiah (Rom. 9 - 11).

But the moral Law of God never ended. We must obey all His moral Law.

Too often we pick and choose which commands to obey. We don't have the liberty to play "Grocery Store" Christianity. Everything is for us to take home.

It is human nature to obey the commands that are in line with what we want and to ignore or violate those that don't line up with our desires. We pat ourselves on the back for keeping some of God's commands, while often omitting the weightier matters of the Law (EX: the Scribes and Pharisees - Mt. 23:23)

"The Scripture cannot be broken" (Jn. 10:35).

No one can ignore, erase, or remove the parts they don't like!

Many seek to obey God by disobeying God. Example:

--"I don't want to keep on committing fornication, so I will marry the unsaved man"

--"I want a Christian home, so I will divorce my unsaved mate and marry a Christian"

--"I need to pay my bills, so I can't give to God"

--"I need to provide for my family, so I'll sell my body (as a prostitute) to do so"

--"I need to serve God, so I don't have time to be with my family"

***God's commands <u>never conflict</u> with each other!**

EX: the chief priests (Mt. 26:47) who paid blood money to "shed the innocent blood of Jesus" [a violation of O.T. Law] yet would not put the money when returned by Judas into the Treasury of the Temple so as to keep the O.T. Law (Mt. 27:6)

V. 20

For your righteousness to <u>exceed</u> that of the Scribes and Pharisees, it must <u>not</u> be the following kind:

1) Not a <u>hypocritical</u> righteousness - a phony act to please men (Mt. 23)

2) Not a <u>self-invented</u> righteousness - your righteousness standards must come from God

Rom. 10:3 - "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

The Scribes and Pharisees revealed how important they viewed God's Law by nullifying them and inventing their own (SEE: Mk. 7:1-9, Mt. 15:1-9)

3) Not a <u>self-achieved</u> righteousness (works religion)

<u>God's righteousness</u> is imputed to our spiritually bankrupt account by Christ (II Cor. 5:21)

CONCLUSION:

Because the Bible is inspired by God, it is therefore profitable, authoritative & complete. This is Paul's point in II Timothy 3:16-17: "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, **and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."***

THE POWER OF THE BIBLE
The Holy Spirit can use the Bible to totally change (transform) our lives
See how the following word pictures show the unique power of the Bible:

1. The Bible is a Sword (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17)

a. The Holy Spirit's offensive and defensive weapon is the Bible (Eph. 6:17). God is speaking by no other means today.
b. According to Heb. 4:12, the Bible as a sword is:
(1) Living ("quick" KJV)
(2) Powerful
(3) Piercing ("sharper...piercing")
(4) Penetrating ("dividing asunder")
(5) Convicting ("discerner [judge] of the thoughts and intents of the heart")

2. The Bible is a Mirror (James 1:23-25)
It reflects the mind of God and the true nature and condition of man.

3. The Bible is a Seed (Mk. 4:1-20 *v. 14)
As a seed, the Bible produces life, growth and fruit.

4. The Bible is water (Eph. 5:26)
The Bible cleanses and quenches thirst.

5. The Bible is a Lamp and Light (Ps. 119:1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 105)
It offers protection from danger and guidance into the right way.

6. The Bible is a hammer (Jer. 23:29)
It has ability to tear down (humble) and build up (edify).

7. The Bible is a Fire (Jer. 20:9; Lk. 24:32).
It convicts, judges, and purifies.

8. The Bible is Milk (I Pet. 2:2)
It causes growth.

9. The Bible is Meat (Heb. 5:14; I Cor. 3:1-3)

It gives strength.