

GOD'S LAW LEADS TO RIGHT LIVING**A. JESUS CAME TO FULFILL GOD'S LAW - NOT DESTROY IT (:17)**

1. The Religious People Of The Day Were Convinced Jesus Was Out To Destroy The Law
 - a. Christianity has that effect:
2. Somewhere Along The Line, The Heart - The Intent & Purpose - Of The O.T. Law & The Prophets Got Twisted
 - a. The O.T. describes worship as a way of life
 - b. But by the first century all of that had been twisted to the point that, instead of worshipping the Lord, it felt more like you were appealing an angry giant
 - c. That's why it broke Jesus' heart to come into the temple and see the whole thing perverted by the Priesthood
3. But Jesus Says, "Don't Think..." / "Don't Misunderstand... (NLT) : I'm Not Here To Destroy With The Law - Just To Destroy What You've Done With It, And Fulfill It's Intended Purpose.
 - a. Galatians 3:24
 - b. Jesus didn't come to destroy the law; He came to fulfill it

B. EVERY DETAIL OF GOD'S LAW WILL ACHIEVE IT'S INTENDED PURPOSE (:18-19)

1. (:18) 'Till Heaven & Earth Pass Away = Revelation 21:1
 - a. After the rapture / tribulation / millennium / Armageddon - when this linear time-based existence is finished - heaven & earth as we know them, will pass away
 - b. Until that time, the dot on every i & the cross on every t in God's word will be accomplished
2. (:19) "Break" = Ignore
 - a. The very thing they were accusing Him of
 - b. Note: salvation not lost

C. IT'S THE HEART GOD'S LAW, NOT THE LETTER, THAT LEADS TO LIFE (:20)

1. When It Came To The Letter Of The Law, The Scribes & Pharisees Were The Model Of Righteousness
 - a. Scribes = lawyers ; Pharisees = strictest followers
 - b. When the supposed goal is to live in strict obedience to the written code, no one could beat the scribes and Pharisees - could they?
2. But Remember: The Letter Of The Law Was Given To Drive Us To The Heart Of The Law
 - a. No one can live a righteous life: "there is none righteous, no not one..."
 - b. To exceed the righteousness of the scribes & Pharisees, there's got to be another way
3. The Heart Of The Law, The Heart Of The Gospel, Is That The Law Has Been Fulfilled For Us
 - a. Jesus fulfilled the law; Jesus kept the covenants; Jesus did what no one could do
 - b. He kept the law, yet suffered the consequences of breaking the law
 - c. We break the law, yet receive the consequences of keeping the law
 - d. That is the heart of the law, and it leads us to right living
 - 1/ that He who knew no sin became sin, that we might become the righteousness of God
 - 2/ that while we were still sinners, Christ dies for us