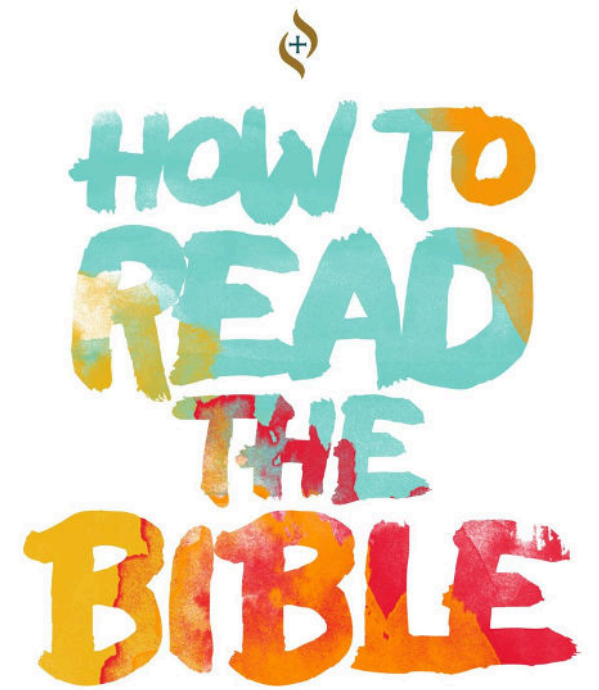


Not Abolish, But Fulfill
Matthew 5:17-20

- **Background Information**
 - Matthew 5:17-20 sits within the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus’ first major block of teaching in the Gospel of Matthew.
 - The phrase “the Law and the Prophets” was a common Jewish way of referring to the whole of the Hebrew Scriptures – what Christians call the Old Testament.
 - The Law (Hebrew: Torah) has traditionally been understood in three categories: the moral law (God’s enduring standards of right and wrong, such as the Ten Commandments), the civil law (rules governing Israel as a nation), and the ceremonial law (regulations for worship, sacrifice, and ritual purity).
 - The word translated “fulfill” (Greek: pleroo) means to fill full, to complete, or to bring to its intended goal – not merely to keep the law, but to bring it to its full and final expression.
- **Paul and the Law**
 - Paul insists that no one is justified – made right with God – by the works of the law (Galatians 2:16; Romans 3:20).
 - Yet Paul also affirms that the law itself is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good (Romans 7:12).
 - For Paul, the law exposes sin and acts as a guardian that leads us to Christ (Galatians 3:23-25), while love for neighbor is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13:8-10).

NOTES



Why does group
guide look
different?

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- **OT Law for Christians**
 - The moral law continues to reveal God’s unchanging character and His will for how we live.
 - The ceremonial law – sacrifices, priesthood, and temple – finds its fulfillment in Christ, who is both the perfect sacrifice and the great high priest (Hebrews 10:1-14), and so is no longer practiced.
 - The civil law, given to order the life of ancient Israel as a nation, is not binding on Christians today, though its underlying principles of justice and mercy still instruct us.
- **Questions to Consider**
 - In the sermon, I make the case that Jesus is the living embodiment of the intent of the law – that He does not abolish the law but fulfills it in Himself. What difference does it make to say Jesus fulfills the law rather than sets it aside?
 - Jesus says our righteousness must surpass that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law (v. 20). The Pharisees were known for careful, meticulous law-keeping – so what kind of righteousness do you think Jesus is calling us to?
 - Are there parts of the Old Testament law you find difficult, confusing, or troubling? How does seeing Christ as the law’s fulfillment help you make sense of them?
- **Challenge for the Week**
 - Read through the rest of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Notice how often Jesus says, “You have heard that it was said... but I say to you.” Where do you see Him deepening the law rather than discarding it? Choose one of these commands and ask how Christ is calling you to live it out this week.

July 12 Group Guide

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 NRSV
Of First Importance

1. Back ground Information

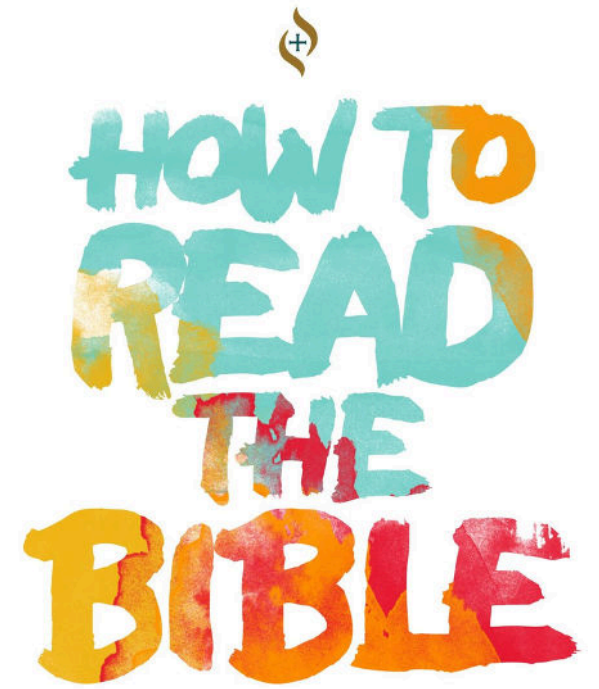
-The New Testament is divided into the following sections: the Gospels, The Book of Acts (history), the epistles, The Letter to the Hebrews and The Book of Revelations (apocalyptic).

-The epistles are further divided by author : Paul, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1,2 & 3 John, and Jude.

-Paul’s epistles are further divided still by first the letters to churches (Romans, Corinthians, etc) followed by his letters to individuals (Timothy, Titus and Philemon.)

-The letters are then placed in order NOT by chronology but by length. For example – Romans comes before 1 Corinthians because it is longer. Timothy comes before Titus for the same reason.

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2. Questions to Consider

-In the sermon, I make the case, as I believe Paul did, that everything about the Christian theology succeeds or fails based on a belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Do you agree or disagree?

-There are other important considerations for the Christian faith as well. If the resurrection is number one, what truths would fill out your “top ten” things to believe in order to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ?

3. Challenge for the Week

-From the top ten list you created, where are the Scriptures that you would point to that undergird your list?
