

NOT TO DESTROY BUT TO FULFILL

Matt 5:17-20

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Jews longed to be rid of the Law - at least parts of it. Amos 8:4-10
- B. Some thought the Messiah would bring them relief
- C. Jesus was here, about to contrast his gospel with the law in several points and did not wish to be misunderstood.
- D. In our text Jesus states what he was not to do as well as what he meant to accomplish.

DISCUSSION:

I. HE CAME NOT TO DESTROY (the law or prophets)

- A. To destroy means to ruin the structure, the organic existence or condition of a thing; to demolish
- B. The Law and the prophets embraced practically all of the Old Testament
 - 1. The law primarily included the first five books
 - 2. The prophets included most of the remainder
 - 3. These books contained statutes for civil Gov. as well as those for worship and also the prophecies of the Messiah.
- C. To destroy the law and the prophets would mean the violent, disorderly abolition of them.
 - 1. As a result anarchy would prevail in civil affairs
 - 2. As regards the types and Prophecies of Christ, destruction would prevent their fulfillment .

II. JESUS CAME TO FULFILL (the Law and the prophets)

- A. He kept the COMMANDS of the law perfectly
 - 1. He was without sin 2Cor 5:21
 - 2. His enemies could find no sin Jhn 10:32
 - 3. His baptism was fulfillment Matt 3:15
- B. Fulfilled the TYPES of the law
 - 1. Sacrifices - blemish free Ex 12:5; 1Pet 1:18-19
 - 2. First fruit of resurrection symbolized by the first fruit of grain harvest Lev 23:10; 1Cor 15:22, 23
 - 3. Provides the water of life like the rock in the Wilderness 1Cor 10 4; Jhn 4:14-15
 - 4. He was THE lamb of God toward which, all animal sacrifices pointed Jhn 1:29
- C. He fulfilled the BLOOD requirements of the law
 - 1. Without shedding blood - no remission Heb 9:22
 - 2. Blood of bulls and goats can't Heb 10:4
 - 3. The sacrifice of Christ does satisfy the demands of justice Heb 9:13,14; 10:14

- D. He fulfilled the PROPHECIES of the O. T.
 - 1. As regards his birth Isa 7:14; Matt 1:18; Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:1
 - 2. As regards his life Isa 9:1, 2; with Matt 4:13-14 also Isa 42:1 with Matt 12:17,18; also Isa 6:9,10 with Matt 13:13-14
 - 3. As regards his resurrection Psa 16:10,11; Acts 2:27

III. "IT IS FINISHED" Jhn 19:30

- A. Destroy and fulfill have in common the idea of bringing a thing to an end.
- B. Destroy implies a violent unforeseen ending
- C. Fulfill implies an intended and orderly pre-arranged conclusion.
- D. Jesus brought the O. T. and its law to an intended, predicted and orderly conclusion.
 - 1. A new covenant predicted Jer 31:31; Heb 8:13
 - 2. He was the prophet foretold by Moses Deut 18:18-19; Acts 3:22-24
 - 3. He was the end of the Law Rom 10:4 Having nailed it to his cross Col 2:14
 - 4. He has established a new, living way through the gospel Heb 10:19, 20; Rom 1:16,17

CONCLUSION:

- A. Moses solemnly warned that those who would not hear the prophet (Jesus) would be cut off from God Deut 18:18-19; Acts 3:22,23
- B. Jesus did what he came to do, that is to fulfill or complete the law and the prophets and you can take advantage of his fulfillment through the gospel Rom 1:16,17
- C. Heed the warning of Moses and obey Jesus now and live!