

Abiding in Christ causes us to bear spiritual fruit, John 15:1-6.

In Matt. 5:17, Jesus is not abolishing or destroying the Law. 1) This is the Law and Prophets which is the sum total of the Old Testament scriptures. 2) The word "Law" in V17 is the same reference in V18- the entirety of OT. 3) Likely Jesus is responding to those who claimed Jesus was trying to destroy the OT, rather says He did not come to do that. 4) He came to fulfill and accomplish all that was written. His plan to fulfill the Law included: a) to accomplish OT prophecy in Himself, b) to demonstrate a parallelism between Himself and Israel, c) to make something happen to show His purpose, d) to complete and fulfill all OT prophecies, covenants, and judgements.

What are the commandments Jesus is talking about? V19, these are the same commandments that Jesus is referring to in Jn. 13:34 & 14:15. 1) The New Covenant law starts in Matt. 5:21 and continues until 7:27. 2) There are (46) open and (14) implied commandments in the Sermon on the Mount. Matt. 7:24&26, Jesus says, "words of Mine." 3) Jesus quotes Moses, but states, "but, I say to you," Jesus is better than Moses, Heb. 3:3. Jn. 14:26, Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to remind the apostles of His teachings. **What do we with the Bible we hold to?**

1) **The Least in the Kingdom Hold Lightly to the Scripture:** V19, those who break, annul, and/or teach others hold lightly to the commands of Jesus, they shall be least in the kingdom of heaven. 1 Pet. 2:1-3, obedience and submission is at the center of our faith. A believer longs for the word. There is a yearning for the word of God (V2) contrasting with someone who doesn't yearn for it. Submission demonstrates growth in Christ.

5 Categories of Submission: 1) Distant relationship with no love or affiliation: 1 Pet. 2:13-16, be subject to them. 2) Closer relationship with potential love or affiliation: 1 Pet. 2:18-19, the word "servant" in v18 is not the word "slave." This is a manager or someone who works in the home of another, again, be subject to them. 3) Closest relationship: 1 Pet. 3:1-2, be subject, place yourself under, fear with respect. 4) Submission to Elders: 1 Pet. 5:5, younger men place themselves under the authority of the elders for their own benefit, Heb. 13:17. Joy is the blessing given to elders who watch over the souls of others who submit to the Word of God. Submission is commanded for the sake of the Lord, 1 Pet. 2:13. It is the will of God, 1 Pet. 2:15-16. We suffer for the sake of the Lord, 1 Pet. 2:20.

>>1 Pet. 3:8-9, Jesus was perfect and entrusted His life to the Lord. There is an inheritance for enduring suffering and acting godly during trials. The least in the kingdom have decided to trust in themselves and not in the Lord.

2) **The Greatest in the Kingdom Grab Ahold of Scripture:** V19. Psalm 119 is entirely about the Scriptures themselves. Grabbing tightly to Scripture effects how you worship the Lord. The Word of God causes Fear of God and Does These 4 Things:

- 1) It produces worship: Ps. 119:38, knowledge of God causes worship and devotion. The Word establishes or stands up in my life. It produces humility and deference.
- 2) It produces fellowship: Ps. 119:63, the psalmist is a companion of others who fear God and keep His commands. Believers seek Christlikeness, humility, and sanctification.
- 3) It produces encouragement: Ps. 119:74, those who fear God are encouraged when they see a believer who fears the Lord.
- 4) It produces repentance: Ps. 119:79, those who fear God, repent and turn back to the psalmist because they know God's precepts and ways.

3) **The Excluded from the Kingdom Warm Their Hands with the Scripture**: Matt. 5:20, the Scribes were experts in the Word of God. New Testament law can only be kept by those to whom righteousness has been imputed, not by keeping the Law to gain God's favor.

5 Resources that a False Believer has at Their Disposal: Heb. 6:4-6, none of these five resources are ever used to describe a true believer. 1) **Enlightened**: V4&6, this can't be referring to losing salvation. These are those who have seen the light but have not come to it. Jesus spoke of Himself and the light He brought in Luke 4. The response of those who heard Him? They were filled with wrath (Luke 4:28) 2) **Exposed**: V4, tasted of the heavenly gift, but didn't consume His words, Jn. 6:53-58. 3) **Witnesses**: V4, partakers of the Holy Spirit. The word "partaken" means to be "associated with." They saw changed lives but weren't themselves. 4) **Taught**: V5, "tasted the good word of God," this "word" means "little pieces," not the whole counsel. They needed to receive it all not just the parts they liked, Jn. 5:39. Jesus warned those who knew the word but didn't have eternal life. 5) **Astounded**: V5, "the powers of the age to come." They saw the works of Christ but didn't commit their lives to Him.

>> It is impossible to renew them to repentance because they reject Jesus as Messiah, reject His offer of forgiveness, and put Him to open shame by treating Him as if He were a liar and a fraud that can't save. This is trampling the blood of Christ, Heb. 10:29.

>> Don't play Christian, being filled with pride and unwilling to submit to Christ and obey His commandments.

Further Discussion and Application

What does entrusting the Lord with suffering show about our faith in the Lord? How does submission to the authorities in our lives show where our faith and hope is placed? Describe how Jesus humbled Himself and what He inherited for His suffering?

2 Cor. 13:5, says for believers to test themselves to see if they are in the faith. What does that test entail? What does a true believer do that demonstrates a changed heart?

What does Peter tell those who have obtained faith like he has received to do in 2 Peter 1:1-11?

What does Peter hope that the believer will do with the Word of God in 2 Peter 1:16-21? How much faith can we put in the Scriptures given to us? How does our faith shape and set the course of our lives? What marks would be apparent on those who are false believers?

Reference the 5 resources that a false believer has. Think about how we can encourage those in our church to keep and obey the Lord's commands and see Col. 1:28 being fulfilled in their lives? What should be the pattern and evidence of the changed life they possess?