



SERIES: November – December – Walking with Jesus

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Wednesday, 11/17/2021

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-20

TITLE: Signed. Sealed. Delivered.

There's a lot of confusion about salvation. What is salvation? Is it necessary? How do you achieve it? Can you earn it? Do you need to keep earning it?

Most people today, even many alleged Christians, think that salvation is earned by good works or generally being a good person. But is this what Jesus taught? The answer might surprise you.

Turn with me to Matthew 5:17-20 (CSB). Jesus said:

“Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.”

This could be one of the most debated concepts today: obedience or legalism. You see, there's this tension that if salvation is a gift from God, do you need to keep obeying Him? I mean Jesus said He fulfilled the law.

I don't know why there is any debate out there. Ephesians 2:8-10 declares that our salvation is a gift from God. It cannot be earned or bought. And this gift results in a life of good works or obedience. So it's not inherently an issue of grace and obedience. It's a tension between legalism and license. Both of those spit in the face of the Gospel. That's why Jesus' words are so meaningful.

Jesus did not come to eradicate or nullify the law. The law, from the 2 main commandments (love the Lord your God and love others) to the 10 to the 613, are meant to protect and provide life. But our sin nature tries to constantly get off track. That's why Jesus came. He came to fulfill the law.

This means He could and would follow the law perfectly. This means He would bring out the fulness of Scripture. He was the Word in the flesh. This means He would complete the Word. What we could never do, He would do on our behalf.

God's Word will not return void. The earth will end. But the Word of God is sure. Signed. Sealed. Delivered.

According to Jesus, anyone who teaches a false gospel or a tickling of the ear message will face strong judgment. God's Word is serious and must not be messed with. So the message of salvation is it is through Jesus Christ alone. It cannot be bought, earned, or won. It is a gift to be received.

So here is my challenge for you today: strip away the legalism and license in your life. How have you let works enter into the gift of salvation? Remember, good works are a byproduct of our salvation. Works are not the means of it.

Maybe it's not the legalism but the license. Maybe you've used God's gift as an excuse to sin. If so, God saved you for so much more. So today, strip away the legalism and the license. When we live within the beautiful boundaries God provides, we will win the day.