

Part Two
Lesson 1
“The Purpose of the Gospels”

Scripture to Study: Matthew 5:17-19; 15:24; see also Malachi 3-4

Introduction

Historically we have almost always concluded that the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are seen as belonging to and thus teaching New Testament doctrine. It is doubtful than even a few of us have considered them to be anything else. Yet, to glean from those books the Truths as God would have us understand, and apply those Truths in a proper manner, it may be necessary that we amend that long held belief. The thrust of this lesson is to show that those books rightly belong to Old Testament teaching. That is not to say that they do not contain lessons and teachings for us...especially those “kingdom pointers”. But it is to say that if we would “rightly divide the word of truth”, then we must FIRST see the teachings of the gospel in an Old Testament light. Only then can we understand the proper application of those teachings.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. In the scripture listed above in the Sermon on the Mount, what did Jesus say He did NOT come to do? How could He have destroyed the law and the prophets?
2. What did Jesus say would have to happen before the law would be fulfilled? Just to be clear...of what law does He here speak?
3. What did Jesus say would be the criteria for “being the least in the kingdom of heaven”?
4. What would be the criteria for being called “great in the kingdom of heaven”?
5. What then is the conclusion we can draw from that concerning the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels?
6. Could Jesus have taught anything different from Old Testament Law and still be sinless?
7. Could He have told anyone to do anything not found in the Old Testament Law and still Himself remain sinless?
8. During the lifetime of Christ, to what law were the Jews held accountable?
9. Whom did Jesus say He came to teach? Could He have taught a Jew anything which would hinder that Jew from rendering obedience to Old Testament Law?
10. Can you find anything that Jesus taught those Jewish folks that those under New Testament Law are not required or allowed to do?