

The Law Fulfilled

Righteousness Imputed—Jason Graham

I've made the point that several times in my teachings that, in order to fulfill the Law, a person would have to Love God with everything and love their neighbor as themselves—as Jesus pointed out in Matthew 22:37-40.

I wanted to include a short scripture study to emphasize the fact that the goal of the believer is NOT to fulfill the Law, but rather to rest in the completed work of Christ, who has already fulfilled the Law.

- Jesus said that he came to fulfill the Law but warned that nothing would be taken from the Law until everything was accomplished. Then at his crucifixion we see that Jesus recognized that everything was accomplished and even declared out loud—as his last words on the cross—It is finished.
 - **Matthew 5:17-20 (NIV):** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.
 - **John 19:28-30 (NIV):** Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
- We also no longer live under the Law of Moses because it was the ministry of death that gives power to sin. Jesus brought us the ministry that brings righteousness, and He gives victory to us, not power to sin.
 - **2 Corinthians 3:7-17 (NIV):** Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing

away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

- **1 Corinthians 15:56-57 (NIV):** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The book of Romans makes it clear that NO ONE will be declared righteous by the Law. Righteousness comes apart from the Law to those who have faith in Jesus. And Ephesians explains that even that faith itself is a gift from God.
 - **Romans 3:19-26 (NIV):** Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV):** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

We can boast in nothing but the finished work of Jesus Christ.
