

BULLETIN

Church of Christ Stallings Drive

Nacogdoches, Texas
P.O. Box 630035 (936) 564-7286

Sunday, March 23, 2008

JESUS FULFILLED THE LAW

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). No part of the Old Testament escaped the fulfillment found in Jesus Christ. Every part of the law and the prophets would find fulfillment in Christ; not even a jot or tittle would escape fulfillment. Having served its purpose, the law would then be taken away. How did Jesus fulfill the law?

Jesus fulfilled the law in His own personal life. That is, Jesus lived under the law and kept it perfectly. "Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?" (John 8:46). No one could point to an inconsistency in His life; no one could ever substantiate a violation of the law in His life. Jesus fulfilled the law by demonstrating the true intent of the law. Jesus challenged those who listened to His sermon by saying: "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20). The Pharisees, particularly, sought a righteousness of their own, through their own twists and turns of the law of Moses. They not only missed the letter of the law but the spirit of the law as well. Yes, the law of Moses said not to murder; but neither could those living under that law hate their brethren. Attitudes of anger and hatred that could lead to murder were wrong, too. Jesus identified what was truly good. The same lessons were applied to

divorce, taking vows, and loving one's neighbor.

Jesus fulfilled the law by demonstrating the highest principles taught by the prophets of old. The ethics and morality of Jesus were spoken of by prophets such as Isaiah, Amos, and Micah. Amos said: "For I know your manifold transgressions And your mighty sins: Afflicting the just and taking bribes; Diverting the poor from justice at the gate" (Amos 5:12). Instead of mistreating the poor and disadvantaged, Jesus had compassion on those less fortunate. Yes, He demonstrated His deity by raising the dead; He also demonstrated His concern for grieving parents. The lofty ideals of the prophets, ideals that the children of Israel repudiated, culminated in Christ's life.

Jesus fulfilled the law by His teachings. "Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved" (Matthew 9:17). The gospel was not simply a new patch on the old garment of the law; it was, though, a new garment that was not dependent on the old law for its legitimacy. "No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse" (Matthew 9:16). This is, of course, what the prophets taught (Jeremiah 31:31-34). The new replaced the old, not by abrogation, but by fulfillment. All that is needful and useful for our salvation, Christ brought to this world.

Randy Harshbarger

F Y I : For your information....

Comments in preparation for the Lord's Supper: March 30, Steve Roan

Sick: Continue to remember Ronnie Westmoreland, Allan Balch, Wilbur Lilly and others who are ill. Thetys Beard was moved to Cecil Bomar this past week. Check on these and see if you can be of any help.

Shut-Ins: J.D. Blankenship; Ethel Burkett; Pauline Hicks; Myrtle McCall; Wayne Polk; Jimmie Standley and Auline Whitaker. Remember these in your prayers and see if you can be of some encouragement to them.

Bible Reading Schedule: March 23-Joshua 9,10, Luke 3; March 24-Joshua 11-13, Luke 4:1-32; March 25-Joshua 14,15, Luke 4:33-44; March 26-Joshua 16-18, Luke 5:1-16; March 27-Joshua 19,20, Luke 5:17-39; March 28-Joshua 21,22, Luke 6:1-26; March 29-Joshua 23,24, Luke 6:27-49.

The **Thursday evening SFA class** will meet in the home of Steve & Jean Adams. Wilbur & Aulie Lilly will be assisting. Meet at the building at 7:00.

The **Ladies' class** will meet in the home of Rose Jobe at 7:00 tomorrow evening. Derinda Slone will be teaching Lesson 5 from our book.

Gospel Meetings: **North Main church of Christ, Gladewater** with Lawrence Kelley preaching; **Lindale church of Christ**, March 23rd-28th with Brett Hogland preaching; The notices for these meetings are on the bulletin board with time and topics.

Dates to remember: **March 23-**There will be a Business Meeting for all the men of the congregation at 5:00 p.m. **April 7-11** will be our Lectureship. The theme this year will be "*Studies from the Life of Christ.*" Make your plans to be at each service. Much work goes into this program by those speakers invited to come. **May 2, 3 & 6.** The elders have decided to let Olan Mills do a new pictorial directory. Olan Mills will calling each of you to schedule your appointment on one of these days.. Look ahead and be prepared to schedule when they call.

In connection with our **Lectureship**, announcements are in the foyer on the tables. Take as many as you can use to invite others to attend this series.

Randy is in Italy and will be back this Saturday . Pray for his safe return.

Wednesday Evening— March 26	Schedule of Services	
Scripture Reading	Thomas Butler	Sunday: Bible Classes
1 Song & Invitation	Daniel Bracamontes	9:30 A.M.
Exhortation	Tyrone Spencer	Worship
Closing Prayer	Billy Williams	10:15 A.M.
		Worship
		6:00 P.M.
		Wednesday: Bible Classes
		7:00 P.M.