



**Sermon:** *Christ and the Law of God*

**Text:** *Matthew 5: 17-20*

**Preacher:** *Paul Hahn*

**Sermon question** - How are we people of the law of God? How do we, together with Jesus, live out the law of God?

**Introductory questions** - The book of Deuteronomy is a retelling of the giving of the law and further elaboration on it. The Ten Commandments were originally given directly by God (Exodus 32:15-16 - God himself wrote, engraved on the tablets), rather than any human agency, and the law-giving was accompanied by a dramatic theophany, emphasizing how closely the people of Israel were bound to the presence and care of God.

1. If all these commandments were obeyed, what kind of society would result? Use descriptive words you can think of.

**Reflection questions:**

1. Why might some people have thought that Jesus came to abolish the Law and the Prophets (v.17)?
2. The Law and the Prophets (the Old Testament) consist of doctrine, prophecy and ethical precepts. In what sense has Jesus fulfilled each of these (v.17)?
3. How does Jesus emphasize his high view of Old Testament Scripture (vv. 17-18)?
4. How can Jesus' words strengthen our confidence in Scripture?
5. How will our response to the Old Testament law determine our status in the kingdom of heaven (v.19)?
6. Paul Hahn described the law in different categories: civil, ceremonial and moral. What does each category entail?
7. Paul Hahn explained different views of what the law is about: a mirror, a guard-rail and a road map. What do these different views refer to? How are they to be applied to our lives?
8. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were zealous about observing the law. How can our righteousness possibly surpass theirs (v.20)?
9. Jesus states that only those who have this surpassing righteousness will enter the kingdom of heaven (v.20). How can this be harmonized with his statement about the poor in spirit (those who admit their spiritual bankruptcy and neediness) entering the kingdom (vv.3, 4 and 5)?
10. Some people claim that Jesus abolished the Old Testament law for the Christian and that we are only responsible for obeying the "Law of love." Respond to this view in light of Jesus' words in this passage.



11. How should you study and apply the Old Testament law today?