August 28, 2022 **“*To Fulfill,*** Part B**”** Pastor Billy Burchfield

Jesus also **fulfilled the Law** in His **teaching** and it brought Him into conflict with the religious leaders. Jesus found the ***Living*** *Word of God* encrusted with man-made traditions and interpretations. He broke away this thick crust of “religion” and brought the people back to God’s Word. He opened the Word to them in a new and living way; they were accustomed to the “letter” of the Law and not the inner “**kernel**” **of life**.

 It was in His **death** and **resurrectio**n that Jesus **especially fulfilled** the Law. He **bore** the curse of the Law (**Gal. 3:13**, *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us* (*for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree* [Deut. 21:23]*”*). He **fulfilled** the OT types and ceremonies so that they no longer are required of the people of God (Heb. 9–10). He set aside the Old Covenant **ratified** with the blood of sacrificial animals and brought in the New Covenant **ratified** with the blood of the spotless *Lamb of God* (Isa. 53:3-6)..

Jesus did not **destroy** the Law by fighting it; **He fulfilled it by *Living* it!** Illustration; to make this clear. If I have an acorn, I can destroy it in one of two ways. I can put it on a rock and smash it to bits with a hammer. Or, I can **plant it in the ground and let it *fulfill itself* by becoming an oak tree**.

When Jesus **died**, He rent the veil of the temple and **opened** **the way** into the holiest (Heb. 10:19). He broke down the wall that **separated** the Jews and Gentiles (Eph. 2:11–13). Because the Law was **fulfilled in** **Christ**, we no longer need temples made with hands (Acts 7:48ff) or religious rituals (Col. 2:10–13).

How can we fulfill the Law? By **yielding** to the Holy Spirit and **allowing** Him to work in our lives (Rom. 8:1–4, *There is therefore now* ***no condemnation*** *to those* ***who are in Christ*** *Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh,* ***but*** *according to the Spirit.*

*2For* ***the law of the Spirit of life in Christ*** *Jesus has* ***made*** *me* ***free*** *from* ***the law of sin and death****. 3For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4that* ***the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit***). The Holy Spirit **enables** us to experience the “***righteousness of the law*** (moral & spiritual precepts)” in daily life. This does not mean we live sinlessly perfect lives, but it does mean that ***Christ lives out His life*** **through** us by the power of His Spirit (**Gal. 2:19-20**, *For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. 20“I* ***have been*** *crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but* ***Christ lives in me****;* ***and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God****, who loved me and gave Himself for me*).

When we read the Beatitudes, we see the **perfect character** of Jesus Christ. While Jesus never had to mourn over His sins, since He was sinless,

He was still a “*man of sorrows and acquainted with grief*” (Isa. 53:3). He never had to hunger and thirst after righteousness since He was the holy Son of God, but He did delight in the Father’s will and find His satisfaction in doing it (John 4:34, *Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.*). The only way we can experience the righteousness of the Beatitudes is **through** the power of Christ.

**Strongs Gr. # 4137**

**(IV)** To fulfill, bring to a full end, accomplish, complete.

**(C)** By implication, **to fill out, complete, make perfect, accomplish an end** (**Matt. 5:17**; Phil. 2:2; 2 Thess. 1:11).

**Eph. 2:11-13, *Brought Near by His Blood***

11 Therefore remember that you, once ***Gentiles in the flesh***—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the ***Circumcision made in the flesh by hands***—

12 that at that time you were ***without Christ***, ***being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel*** and ***strangers from the covenants of promise***, ***having no hope*** and ***without God in the world***.

13But **now in Christ** Jesus you who once were far off ***have been brought near by the blood of Christ***.

Prior to the New Covenant, Gentiles were *excluded* from citizenship in the commonwealth of Israel and were *foreigners* to the ***covenant promises*** of God. There was no hope in this life and no ability to know God’s presence in the world. The ***covenant sacrifice of Christ’s blood*** took Gentile believers who were far from God and ***joined them together with the Jews in the New Covenant***. Gentiles were ***grafted in*** to enjoy the covenants of promise through the New Covenant and were ***included as heirs*** with the patriarchs of all of God’s promises.