

Study Guide: Matthew Lesson 63-Christ and the Law

April 19, 2026

This study guide examines the relationship between the believer, JESUS CHRIST, and the moral law as presented in Matthew 5:19 and various Epistles. It explores how the death and resurrection of JESUS CHRIST changed the believer's legal standing while maintaining the holiness and relevance of GOD'S standards.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. According to the text, in what specific sense are believers no longer "under the law"?
 2. How does the illustration of a funeral hearse explain the Law's dominion over a person?
 3. Explain the analogy of marriage used in Romans 7 regarding the Law.
 4. What is the role of the Law as a "tutor" or "schoolmaster" according to Galatians 3?
 5. Why does the Gospel exalt the Law rather than overthrowing it?
 6. How does the Law help a person identify sin in their own life?
 7. Describe the analogy of the "clumsy servant" and what it teaches about the Law.
 8. In what way does the Law "provoke" sin, according to the provided text?
 9. Why does the author describe the Law as "holy, just, and good" even if it condemns the sinner?
 10. According to Romans 8:4, how can a believer fulfill the "righteous requirement of the law"?
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Answer Key

1. Believers are no longer under the penalty or the curse of the Law because JESUS CHRIST paid that penalty on the cross. While the moral standards remain, the Law no longer has the power to slay or condemn those who have faith in JESUS CHRIST.
 2. The Law only has dominion over a man as long as he lives. Just as a driver cannot give a speeding ticket to a dead person in the back of a hearse, the Law has no power to punish someone who has died to it through JESUS CHRIST.
 3. A woman is bound by law to her husband only as long as he is alive; if he dies, she is free to marry another. Similarly, believers died to the Law through the body of JESUS CHRIST so they could be "married" to HIM who was raised from the dead.
 4. The Law acts as a schoolmaster to bring individuals to JESUS CHRIST by showing them their inability to keep GOD'S standards. Once a person has found faith in JESUS CHRIST, they no longer need the tutor to "beat them up" because the penalty has been borne by the Savior.
 5. The Gospel exalts the Law because it required JESUS CHRIST to fulfill the entire penalty of the Law for every person who ever lived. By trusting in HIM, the believer acknowledges that the Law's demands were so high and holy that only the sacrifice of JESUS CHRIST could satisfy them.
 6. The Law reveals sin by setting a clear standard that defines what is wrong. For example, a person might not recognize covetousness as a sin until the Law explicitly states, "Thou shalt not covet."
 7. The clumsy servant reveals his nature only when he is given a command to perform a task. The command itself is not the problem; rather, the command reveals the servant's clumsiness when he trips and breaks things while trying to obey.
 8. The Law provokes sin because human nature often desires to defy rules simply because they exist. This is compared to a child who sees a "wet paint" sign and feels a sudden urge to touch the paint just to challenge the restriction.
 9. The Law is holy because it comes from GOD and reflects HIS perfect nature. The problem is not with the Law itself, but with the "clumsy" and sinful nature of humans who are unable to keep its perfect standards.
 10. A believer fulfills the righteous requirement of the Law by walking according to the Spirit rather than the flesh. Through the energy and power of the Holy Spirit, a Christian can freely and positively live out the Law's requirements.
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Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast the "civil," "ceremonial," and "moral" aspects of the Law. Based on the text, which of these is no longer binding, and in what specific way does the moral law still apply to a believer?
2. Analyze the internal conflict described in Romans 7:22-25. How can a believer "delight in the law of GOD" while simultaneously struggling with the "law of sin" in their members?
3. Discuss the concept of being "under law toward CHRIST." How does this state differ from being under the "curse of the law," and how does it change the way a Christian views obedience?
4. Explain the statement: "The law is preeminent, the law is permanent, and the law is pertinent." Use the points discussed in the text to support why the Law remains vital for the Christian life.
5. Detail the transition of a believer from being "dead to the law" to "bearing fruit to GOD." What role does the resurrection of JESUS CHRIST play in this transformation?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Adulteress:** A woman who is unfaithful to her marriage vows; used in the text to illustrate the legal bond of marriage.
- **Binding:** Legally or morally obligatory; a requirement that must be followed.
- **Civil Law:** Statutes relating to the organization and daily life of a nation or community.
- **Ceremonial Law:** Regulations regarding religious rituals, sacrifices, and external forms of worship.
- **Condemnation:** A legal sentence or judgment that declares someone guilty and subject to punishment.
- **Covetousness:** A strong desire for something that belongs to another person.
- **Dominion:** Power, authority, or control over someone or something.
- **Epistles:** Letters found in the New Testament written by Apostles to churches or individuals.
- **Flesh:** The human nature or earthly part of man that is prone to sin and opposed to the Spirit of GOD.
- **Justified:** Declared righteous or innocent in the sight of GOD.
- **NKJV:** The New King James Version of the Bible.

- **Penalty:** The punishment assigned for breaking a law or rule.
- **Pertinent:** Relevant or applicable to a particular matter.
- **Preeminent:** Surpassing all others; very distinguished or important.
- **Provoke:** To stimulate or incite a reaction, typically a strong or unwelcome one.
- **Schoolmaster/Tutor:** A person (or in this context, the Law) responsible for the instruction and discipline of a child until they reach maturity.
- **Slay:** To kill or destroy; used here to describe the Law's power to exact the death penalty for sin.
- **Spirit:** The Holy Spirit, who provides the power and guidance for a believer to live a GODLY life.