

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Second Quarter Finances

We have set a monthly tithe goal of \$13,750 to help us see where we need to be to cover our financial responsibilities and also to fund the work of sharing the gospel.

April: \$7,632.00

May: \$12,118.00

June: \$10,877.00

Total: \$30,627.00 received
\$41,250.00 budgeted

Calendar Events

July 11: Ladies' Brunch 10 am

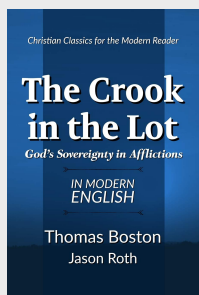
Aug 2: Teleios Resumes

Sept 12: Ladies' Brunch 10 am

Sept 19: Men's Breakfast 8 am

Possible Back 2 School Prayer Rally

Teleios Book



Available for purchase from Pastor Patrick for \$10

All men and young men are welcome

The Gospel That Satisfied

"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." Matthew 5:17

We can oftentimes have this need to do things for ourselves. Any parent is painfully aware of this while watching their toddlers become increasingly independent. The parent keeps trying to just reach in and do it for their child only to be told "I can do it". The thing is though that I don't know exactly when in our development it is that we think we have outgrown that tendency. As best as I can tell from my own life and observation of others, we have never fully grown out of it. The bigger reality though is that we apply this same approach to all of life.

Here, Jesus is talking to both His disciples who drew near to Him and the crowds that remained at a distance. He has just completed the Beatitude portion of the sermon as well as the salt and light portions before speaking these words. That is significant because the Beatitudes describe the character that increasingly marks every citizen of Christ's Kingdom and the salt and light portions are about the functionality and visibility of that transformed life. What Jesus had been teaching was radically different from what they had known up to this point. For those hearing these words, blessing came through the law but Jesus' words show a blessing apart from the law leaving some to possibly wondering if the law no longer mattered.

"The life, work, and words of Christ are not an emendation of the Old Testament, or an abrogation of it. It stands fast and firm, fulfilled, carried to perfection, filled to the full in Christ."
Charles H. Spurgeon

The problem with the law, as Paul well points out in Romans 7:10, is that it doesn't produce anything but death and therefore leaves all who live by it exhausted, frustrated, and still unjustified. There is no peace through the law; it serves only to teach us our flaws. But Jesus provides a better way. The law is requirement, it is all about doing without end, a perpetual cycle of "try and fail" that cannot produce holiness in the lives of mankind who attempt to live by it. But notice what Jesus says in this verse...He didn't come to abolish it. That is what one might expect, for



Elders in Action

We are blessed to have Elders who meet together each month to pray for one another, study scripture, and to discuss how we can biblically lead this local gathering. Here are a few of the decisions that we have made to help hold us to what Scripture says and to address practical concerns:

- We have written a new policy that lays out a clear timetable for stepping into leadership and service positions
- We decided to keep everyone together on Wednesdays for a time of Biblical teaching and discussion that also promotes unity within the body to strengthen bonds and community
- Financial Stewardship decisions: Gathering in the fellowship hall for Sundays to limit HVAC usage, temporarily suspending missions and cooperative program giving, and halting search for song leader and janitor.
- Meeting with Revitalization Groups to see if we can benefit from their services

it to be done away with but the law is part of God's good work in us. The law is a tutor instructing us according to the ways of holiness.

The problem with the law is that it requires satisfaction in order to receive the reward of life and avoid the penalty of death. When Jesus spoke those powerful words on the cross, "***It is finished***", He was speaking about the work that He came to do, the work that we could not do. He satisfied all the requirements of the law, winning the reward and cancelling the penalty for all who are in Him by faith.

That means that as the Kingdom Citizens the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:2-12 are the result of the presence of the Holy Spirit applying the blessings of the victorious life of Christ. For the Christian, blessings no longer come through the exhaustion and frustration of trying to keep the law only to fail time and again, but through trusting that what Christ accomplished was accepted by God and sufficient for our redemption and restoration.

We need to stop "slapping away" the Spirit's work in our lives by trying to do it ourselves. That will only leave us in failure when we have been saved to be more than conquerors through Christ. Learn to rest in the gospel that satisfies so that you are working not to merit what Christ already earned but to worship Him for what He accomplished.

Soli deo gloria (God's glory alone)

Pastor Patrick



Quarterly Challenge

Find one lost person to pray for and to begin sharing your faith with.

Sunday Sermon Series

When God is Big Obadiah 1:1-9

When Compassion Dies Obadiah 1:10-14

The God Who Makes All Things Right Obadiah 1:15-18

The Kingdom that Cannot Be Shaken Obadiah 1:19-21

Next Sermon Series

The Parables of Christ

Wednesday Nights Next Quarter

Concluding Becoming Kingdom Citizens Study in Matthew 5

Next will be Gospel-Shaped Outreach