

Sunday, March 13, 2022

“Meet Your King”

Summary of The Christian and The Law

Matthew 5:17-20

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(focal: v17)

John Newton, the author of the hymn ‘Amazing Grace,’ was an outstandingly wise correspondent with many of his contemporaries who sought his spiritual counsel. In one of his letters he wrote, ‘Ignorance of the nature and design of the law is at the bottom of most of our religious mistakes.’ That is still true today. Perhaps more Christians are confused or uncertain about the role that God’s law plays in their lives than about most things. That is why Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:17-20 are so important. Here he explains to us the place the law should have in the Christian life. What is the law? The first five books of the Old Testament are known collectively as ‘*the law*’ in distinction from ‘*the prophets*.’ More generally in Scripture, the words for law can mean a wide variety of things – commandment, principle, instruction, and so on. What, then, does Jesus mean when he speaks about the law in the Sermon on the Mount? Here he is referring particularly to the idea of the law as the specific commandments God has given to his people to regulate the whole of their lives – moral, religious, social, and political.