

Study Guide: Matthew Lesson 62-Christ and the Law

April 12, 2026

Study Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. According to the teachings of Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:19, what are the two specific consequences for a believer who breaks the least of the commandments and teaches others to do the same?
 2. Based on the lesson, why is the role of a Christian teacher associated with a "stricter judgment" according to James 3:1?
 3. How does the document define the "Civil Law" branch of the Old Testament, and what is its current status regarding the church?
 4. What was the purpose of the "Ceremonial Law," and why is it no longer considered binding for the modern believer?
 5. How is the "Moral Law" distinguished from the other two branches of the law, and why does it remain binding today?
 6. The teacher mentions a "paradox" found in the Epistles regarding the law. Explain the two contradictory principles that make up this paradox.
 7. What is the historical origin of "dispensationalism" as described in the source, and what is the teacher's stance on its biblical validity?
 8. Define the "Three Ps of Sin" and explain which specific "P" no longer applies to the child of God.
 9. What did the "tearing of the temple veil" (Mark 15:38) signify in the context of the transition from the Old Testament system to the New?
 10. According to the lesson, what is the "handwriting of requirements" mentioned in Colossians 2:14, and what did Jesus Christ do with it?
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Answer Key

1. A believer who habitually breaks the law and teaches others to do so will not lose their salvation, but they will be called "least in the kingdom of heaven." This implies a loss of respect, honor, and reward within the Kingdom.
 2. Those who speak for God carry a greater responsibility and higher accountability. Because they represent His Word to others, any ignorance or false teaching leads to a more rigorous standard of judgment.
 3. The Civil Law consisted of the legal and social standards that duly constituted Israel as a chosen nation under God. This law ended when the church was born, as the church replaced the civil legal system of Israel.
 4. The Ceremonial Law involved sacrifices, feasts, and the priesthood, all of which were "shadows" pointing toward the coming of Jesus Christ. Once He fulfilled these requirements on the cross, the ceremonial system was completed and ended.
 5. The Moral Law is an extension of the character and very nature of God. Because His nature does not change, the moral standards He set remain binding and relevant for believers today.
 6. The paradox is that the Epistles teach the law is no longer binding (specifically the civil and ceremonial laws), yet they simultaneously uphold the moral law as a standard for holy living.
 7. The teacher states that the idea of dispensations was created by a man around 1850 to appear intelligent and is not a concept derived from the Bible. He encourages believers to follow the Word of God as it is, noting that God does not change.
 8. The "Three Ps" are the Presence, Power, and Penalty of sin. While believers still deal with the presence and power of sin in their mortal bodies, they are no longer under the Penalty of sin because Jesus Christ paid that price.
 9. The tearing of the veil, which was approximately four inches thick, signified the end of the old ceremonial law and the sacrificial system. It marked the fulfillment of those requirements through the death of Jesus Christ.
 10. The "handwriting of requirements" refers to a Greek concept of a "debt letter" signed by a debtor. God took the record of our sins and "nailed it to the cross," effectively wiping out the debt through the sacrifice of His Son.
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Essay Questions

1. **The Character and Consequence of God's Law:** Discuss the three reasons provided in the lesson for why a believer should obey the law today (Character, Consequence, and Clarification). How do these factors influence a Christian's motivation for holiness?
2. **The Transition from Israel to the Church:** Analyze the teacher's argument regarding the "middle wall of separation." How did the birth of the church change the judicial and dietary identifications that previously set Israel apart from the Gentiles?
3. **The Three Branches of Law:** Compare and contrast the Civil, Ceremonial, and Moral laws. Why must a believer distinguish between these three to properly understand their obligations under the New Covenant?
4. **The "Three Ps" and Romans 7:** Explore the struggle of the believer as described through the "Three Ps of Sin." How does Paul's experience in Romans 7 illustrate the tension between the new creature and the "sinful shell" or old nature?
5. **The Responsibility of the Modern Church:** The teacher posits that the "evangelical church of America is a failure." Evaluate this statement based on the lesson's emphasis on adhering to God's moral standards and the consequences of "habitual disobedience."

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Ceremonial Law:** The branch of Old Testament law dealing with religious rituals, such as sacrifices, feasts (Passover, Pentecost), and the priesthood, which pointed toward Jesus Christ.
- **Civil Law:** The legal system that constituted Israel as a nation; it defined their judicial identity but ended with the birth of the church.
- **Dispensations:** A theological framework (critiqued in the source) that divides history into distinct periods of God's dealings with man.
- **Habitual Obedience:** A consistent pattern of living according to God's standards, as opposed to someone whom Jesus Christ "cannot use" or "cannot bless" due to ongoing disobedience.
- **Handwriting of Requirements:** A debt letter or record of broken moral laws that God "nailed to the cross" (Colossians 2:14).

- **Least in the Kingdom:** The status of a believer who breaks the commandments and teaches others to do so, resulting in a loss of honor and reward.
- **Moral Law:** The timeless standards of God based on His character, which remain binding on all people (e.g., righteousness, purity, and faith).
- **Penalty of Sin:** The legal consequence or "wages" of sin, which for the believer was paid in full by Jesus Christ on the cross.
- **Sanctified:** To be set apart or made holy; used in the text to describe how God has made all foods clean for the believer.
- **Sovereign:** The absolute authority and rule of God over every detail of life, both great and small.

Scripture Reference Guide (NKJV)

- **Matthew 5:19:** "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."
- **James 3:1:** "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment."
- **1 Thessalonians 4:7:** "For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness."
- **1 Timothy 4:12:** "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."
- **Romans 6:14:** "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."
- **Colossians 2:14:** "...having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."