



# Hold On, It Is Not Over Yet!

**“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil” (Matthew 5:17).**

VCM-SOTM12

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“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. 19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17-19).

People so much love the new that they can sometimes throw away the good and tested for it. In this study Jesus sets out the correct perspective on God's word and the right attitude towards it. Some claim that since the coming of Jesus, only the New Testament should be used. Equally too are those who accept only the Old Testament. The truth of the matter is that:

- 1) while Jesus was physically here on earth, the Old Testament was the only written scripture available to Him. He read, believed and preached it. His attitude was “... the scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).
- 2) Prior to the writing of the New Testament, the only written scriptures available to the apostles and the early church was the Old Testament. They equally read, believed, practiced and took it as the authentic word of God that cannot be broken. Indeed, Paul writing to Timothy, his convert, declared in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”.

John 1:17 pointed out that “... the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”. Some at the time, could have interpreted this to mean that the coming of Christ was to abolish the law and introduce grace. Jesus made it categorically clear to them that His mission was not to abolish the law or the prophets but rather to fulfil them. Those today, who still entertain similar views need to heed this message of Christ. The emphasise in Christ's mes-

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sage is very poignant: “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (vs 18).

The consequences of ignoring His message is equally very noteworthy: “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (vs 19).

Many other scriptures also remind us of similar principles:

- 1) Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.
- 2) Deuteronomy 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you
- 3) Deuteronomy 12:32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.
- 4) Proverbs 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.
- 5) Revelations 22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.