The Disciples And The Law

Matthew 5:17-19

Intro:

A. Jesus has taught the beatitudes.
   1. They are not specific law commands.
   2. They are imbedded in the law.
   3. Law did not exclude love.

B. Jesus has used figures of speech to illustrate the work of church and church-age disciple.
   1. They are to be as salt.
   2. They are to be as light.
   3. God is to receive glory from those who observe their good works.

C. These may seem to set aside the law.
   1. The disciples may see this as His way of negating the law.
   2. Jesus realizes that the Law could not be declared invalid and continue on from there.

I. Jesus Did Not Come To Destroy The Law.

A. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets."
   1. think = νομίζω = "to regard or acknowledge as custom", "to hold as customary", "to suppose"
   2. destroy = καταλυω = "to loosen down", "to disunite parts of anything", "to dismantle."

B. "I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill."
   1. destroy = (same as A-2)
   2. fulfill = πληρωω = "to make full" "complete", "accomplish", "perform fully"

II. The Law Was Inviolate Until Fulfilled.

A. "For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass." V.18
   1. verily = ὁμων = "certainly" This gives force to the statements He will make.
   2. pass = παρερχομαι = "to come to an end"
B. "...one jot or one title shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

1. jot = ωτα = "the smallest Hebrew letter"
2. title = κεφαλ = "a little horn", the tiny stroke in the Hebrew letters that made them differ.
3. no wise = ου μη = no, not, a double negative expressing strong denial.
4. pass = (see A-2)
5. fulfilled = γινομαι = "to begin to be" "to enter upon any state or condition" "to become"
6. "until its purpose is complete" - Phi
7. "until all that must happen has happened" - NEB
8. law = νομος = "ordinance", "rule"

IV. The Disciples Must Abide In The Law And Teach Others To Do So.

A. "whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments..."

1. break = λυω = "to unfasten", "to unbind"
2. least = μικρος = "small", "tiny".
3. commandments = συνολη = "that which has been enjoined", "a precept or a principle"

B. "...and shall teach men so, he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven:"

1. teach = διδασκω = "to give instruction"
2. least = μικρος = "small", "little".
3. kingdom = βασιλεα

C. "...but whosoever shall do and teach them,"

1. do = ποιω = "to form", "to produce", "one who does repeatedly"
2. teach = διδασκω = "to give instruction"

D. "...the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

1. great = μεγας = "large"
2. "will be ranked great."

V. Was The Law Fulfilled?
A. Colossians 2:13-17
   1. He blotted out the handwriting of ordinances.
   2. He took it out of the way.
   3. He nailed it to His cross.

B. Galatians 3:10-14
   1. The law was a schoolmaster to bring Israel to Christ.
   2. After faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.