

## Through The Lens of The Bible:

The lens through which we understand the Bible

As anyone who has taken a photograph knows, what you see in the photo depends upon where your camera is set. Your camera “sees” through the lens, and what you see in the photo is the result.

"Making sense of the Bible" with the need to read the Bible through the lens of Jesus Christ. We all tend to “see” the Bible through our own lens. We may vigorously deny this and say we just read what’s there, but the fact remains we see through our particular perspective. We see through our family of origin, education, church experience, life journey. This is one of the reasons there are so many different interpretations of the Bible and particular passages within it.

To see and understand the full revelation of the Father through the Son by the Spirit, we need to read all the Scriptures through the lens of Jesus.

So let’s think about reading the Bible through the lens of Jesus.

A good text to begin with as we consider interpreting Scripture through the lens of Jesus is Matthew 5:17-20:

### **NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION (NRSV)**

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (NRSV)

### **Matthew 5:17-20 - King James Version**

17 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.

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.