

**SERMON**  
**Made Whole,**  
**The Heart of Righteousness**  
Matthew 5:17-48

Christ's House rules are for the heart to make us whole.

We will see this to be true by looking at:

**1) Jesus' view of the law (v.17-20)**

**2) Jesus' interruption of the law (v.21-47)**

**3) Jesus' goal of the law (v.48)**

**GOSPEL READING**  
**Matthew 5:17-48**

<sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore whoever relaxes 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. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>21</sup> "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' <sup>22</sup> But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup> So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup> Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. <sup>26</sup> Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

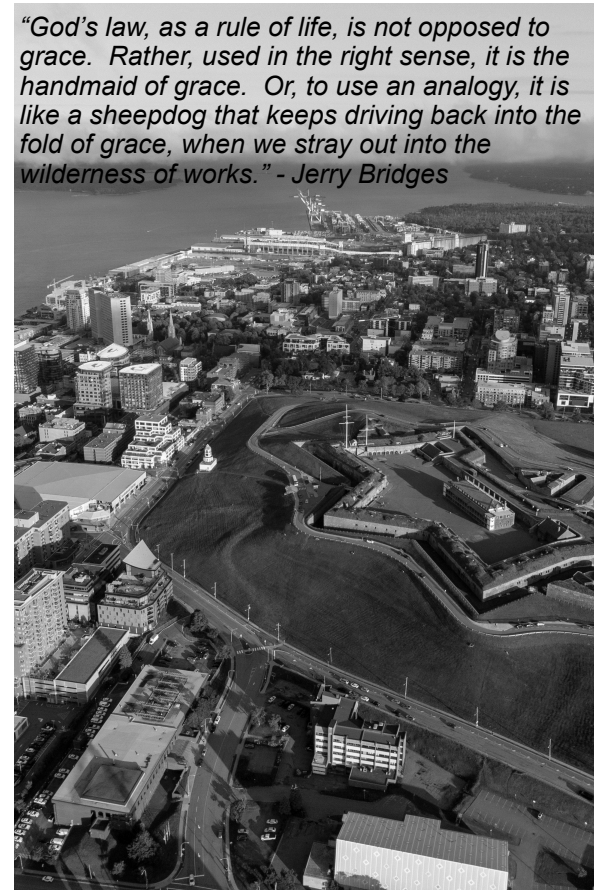
<sup>27</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup> But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

<sup>31</sup> "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' <sup>32</sup> But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup> "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' <sup>34</sup> But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

<sup>38</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' <sup>39</sup> But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. <sup>40</sup> And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. <sup>41</sup> And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



**BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN**  
**CHURCH**

May 31, 2026  
www.bedfordpca.org  
49 Nelsons Landing Blvd., Bedford, NS

**Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church**

We are glad to have you join us today. We envision a church worshipping with joy, loving each other with compassion and reaching out to the world with grace and justice.

**CHILDREN**

There is usually Children's Church for children between the ages of 3 to 10. There is no Children's Church on Sundays when the Lord's Supper is celebrated. Downstairs there is also a nursery and a separate room for nursing mothers.

**UPCOMING**

**Church Potluck:** Today after the service. Everyone is welcome.

**English Conversation Group:** June 3, 12:45 p.m.

**Church BBQ:** June 14th, After Service

**Men's Breakfast:** June 20, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at BPC, Register online at: [bedfordpca.org/rsvp/mens-breakfast](http://bedfordpca.org/rsvp/mens-breakfast)

**BIBLE STUDIES**

- **Adult Bible study:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays via Zoom. Led by Reid Campbell. Studying NT book of Titus. Next meets June 3.
- **ISMC study groups** are meeting—contact Will or Chi Perrie.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the home of Laura Priddle studying Joshua. The 7:15 p.m. Monday evening study on Romans meets every other week.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE OPEN DOOR CENTRE** which provides a safe place for youth who are sexually exploited or who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. On Mother's Day we invite you to pick up a HEY (Helping Exploited Youth) box or a baby bottle and fill it generously. Bring the box or bottle back with your donation inside, on Father's Day. To find out more about Open Door visit [opendoorcentre.com](http://opendoorcentre.com)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Family of the week: Leon Zhou

**HOW TO GIVE**

E-transfer to [bedfordpca@gmail.com](mailto:bedfordpca@gmail.com)

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!

People: **Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.**

Leader: Bless the Lord, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the  
voice of his word!

People: **Bless the Lord, all his hosts,  
his ministers, who do his will!**

Leader: Bless the Lord, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.

People: **Bless the Lord, O my soul!**  
—based on Psalm 103:1-2, 20-22

### HYMN OF PRAISE

Come Thou Fount

### OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 4:2-6

<sup>2</sup>In that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honour of the survivors of Israel. <sup>3</sup>And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, <sup>4</sup>when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. <sup>5</sup>Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. <sup>6</sup>There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

### CALL TO REPENTANCE

Based on Old Testament reading

### SONG OF REFLECTION

Psalm 139

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: **Merciful God, you pardon all who truly  
repent and turn to you.**

**We humbly confess our sins and ask your  
mercy.**

**We have not loved you with a pure heart,  
nor have we loved our neighbour as  
ourselves.**

**We have not done justice, loved kindness,  
or walked humbly with you, our God.**

**Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-  
kindness.**

**In your great compassion, cleanse us from  
our sin.**

**Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew  
a right spirit within us.**

**Do not cast us from your presence, or take  
your Holy Spirit from us.**

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation and  
sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

—based on Psalm 51:10-12

### SILENT CONFESSION

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Leader: This is the message we have heard from God  
and proclaim to you, that God is light and in  
God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the  
light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship  
with one another, and the blood of Jesus his  
Son cleanses us from all sin.

—from 1 John 1:5, 7

### SONGS OF RENEWAL

Amazing Love

Shout to the Lord

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 5:1-12

<sup>5</sup>Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries  
that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted  
and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver  
have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence  
against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid  
up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the  
labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by  
fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the  
harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of  
hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-  
indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of  
slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the  
righteous person. He does not resist you.

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the  
Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of  
the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early  
and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your  
hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not  
grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may  
not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the  
door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience,  
brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the  
Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained  
steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,  
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord  
is compassionate and merciful.

<sup>12</sup>But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by  
heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes”  
be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall  
under condemnation.

### PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND CITY

Prayer for the Open Door Centre and Leon Zhou

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be  
thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be  
done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us  
this day our daily bread; and forgive us our  
debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead  
us not into temptation, but deliver us from  
evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### DOXOLOGY

### SERMON MADE WHOLE, THE HEART OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Rev. Jim Poopalapillai

### CLOSING HYMN

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

### BENEDICTION

Leader: The peace of God, which passes all  
understanding, keep your hearts and minds in  
the knowledge and love of God, and of God's  
Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of  
God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit, remain with you always.

—based on Philippians 4:7

### DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who  
love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

