FAITHFUL TO THE SCRIPTURES

Reading: Matthew 5: 17-20
• A Gift from God
1. The Law

• ‘The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes’ (Ps. 19:7–8).

• ‘Equality’

• “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)
1. The Law

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” (Matt. 5:17–19)
1. The Law  2. The Prophets

- A new age that was to come
- “The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. (Isa. 60:19)
- "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox." (Isa. 11:6–7ff)
1. The Law  2. The Prophets

- “Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create...” (Is 65: 17-18)
1. The Law  2. The Prophets  3. The Writings

• ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about ME in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled’ (Luke 24:44).

a) We can be faithful to it quite literally;

b) We can be faithful to the ‘Spirit’ of the Word.

• 'We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.' (1 Cor 2: 12-13)
• “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. . .” (1 Corinthians 15:3–5)