



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## How to Inherit Eternal Life - 1

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**In the Gospel According to Luke** (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching, forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly preach the Kingdom of God. Jesus is over half way through His 3 year ministry when He sends His select 12 common men to heal and preach. Jesus' impact became known to the common and to the royalty. God has provided a rare glimpse of the kingdom of God through Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain to a select three apostles. Jesus now sets his sights toward Jerusalem, makes it very clear the price followers will pay to follow Him and sends seventy out to heal, preach and warn. After returning and reporting to Jesus, Jesus rejoices. A lawyer asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life.

*“And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?” And he answered, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE.” (Luke 10:25-28 NASB; Mt 22:34-40; Mk 22:34-40)*

**A lawyer stood up.** A lawyer, likely a scribe and a student or expert in the Mosaic Law, stood and ask Jesus a question. This lawyer was likely a person that many would call upon to interpret the Law of Moses or the Mosaic Law. The lawyer was likely not seeking the truth.

**Putting Jesus to the test.** The lawyer appears to be attempting to draw Jesus into a debate that he could win and subsequently elevate his status of the Mosaic Law. As a scribe he likely had heard about Jesus' teachings that challenged the religious leaders of the community. The lawyer asked a question that many had been asking.

**What shall I do to inherit eternal life?** This same question is raised in other portions of scripture. A rich young asked the question (Lk. 18:18; Mt.19: 16-22) Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, asked the question (Jn. 3: 1-15). It is a question that all shall ask at some time in their lives. The question is very self-focused in its nature. The lawyer, being an interpreter of the Mosaic Law, understands it to be one of works, action or rules that he must do or abide by to please God.

**Jesus answers with a question.** Knowing that the man is viewed as a scribe or lawyer, Jesus asked, *“What is written in the Law?”* The lawyer responds with language from scripture that describes a perfect love for God and a perfect love for neighbors. *“YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”* Jesus responds to do this and you will live (Lev. 18:5; Ezek. 20:11; Mt. 19:17). Doing this and eternal living is the promise of the law. However, no one can perfectly keep the law so all fall short and must seek God's mercy (Gal 3:10-14; 23-29). That mercy and grace is found through the One that the scribe was challenging, Jesus the Christ.

### For Your Consideration:

- Do you attempt to put Jesus to the test of your self-perceived righteousness?
- Do you attempt to earn your way to eternal life with God by good deeds or good living?
- Do you understand that no one can keep the Law perfectly and must seek mercy and grace from God?

### BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44