

Matthew Chapter Seven

Notes from the sermon

Plan the work. Work the plan.

You've probably heard this before.

Plan your work. Work the plan.

If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

One of my favorites, along those lines, is to
be a student for life.

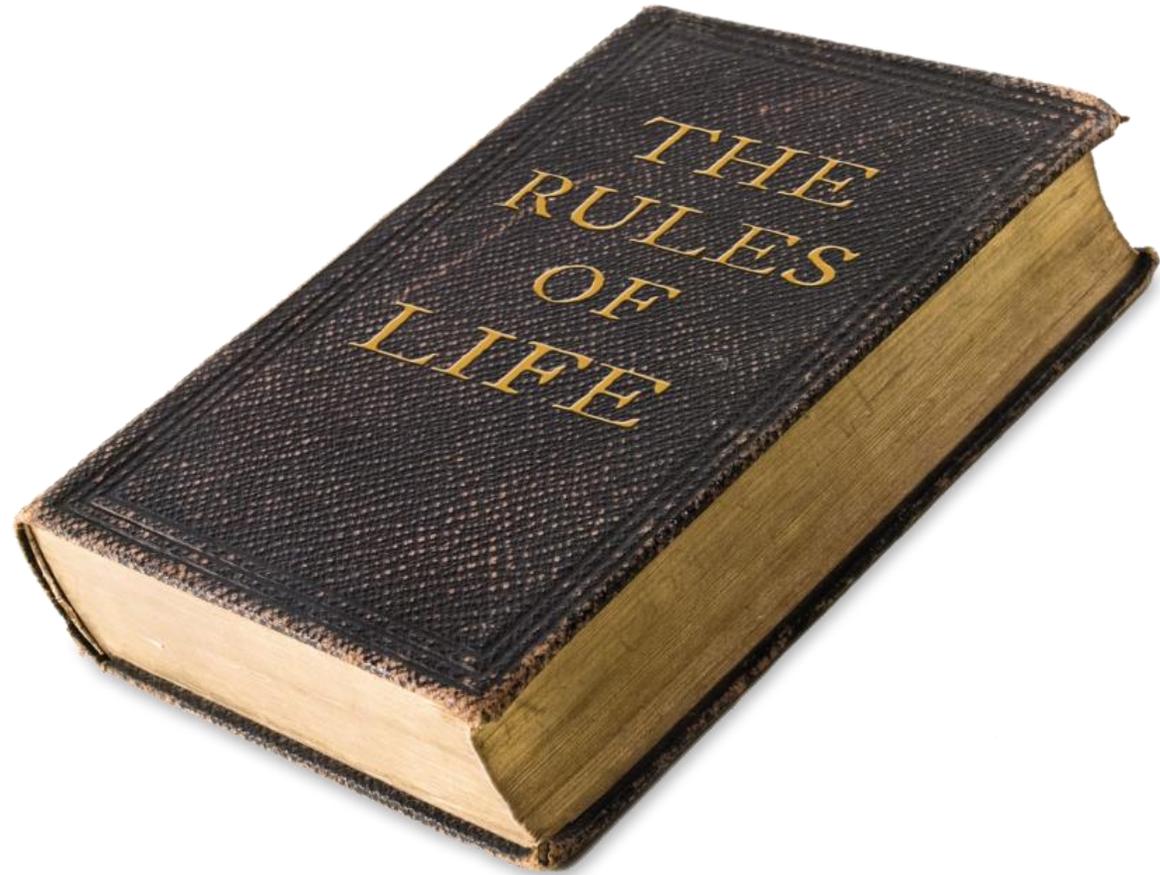
Being a student for life is commendable, but what if
you never work the plan?

When you are young rules of the game are fun. Nothing really is at stake except bragging rights.



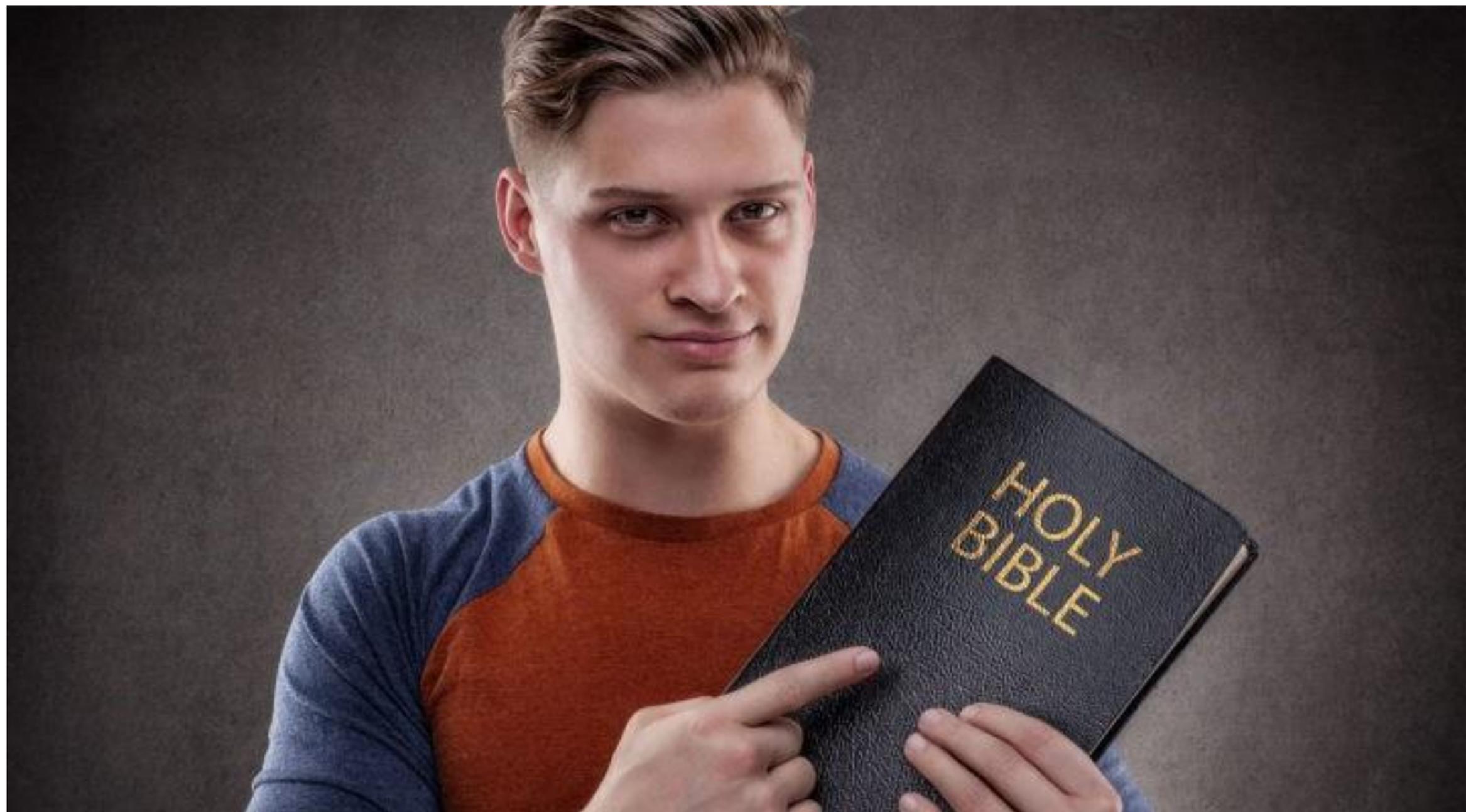
When you
are older
rules take
on a
different
tone





THE
RULES
OF
LIFE

The rules of life apply to everybody.
No one has the official rule book,
so everybody has their own version,
but everybody knows that “it” exists.
There are rules to life.



This is also a rule book.
It does not apply to everybody.
We have an official rule book,
although there are many “authorized” versions.
These rules only apply to Christians.

The rules of life or the rule of law for Christians,
either way,
it sets a standard code of conduct.

The next slide shows the problem with that.

First,
LEARN
THE **RULES**
Then
BREAK
Them

Since no one actually wrote the rules of life, they could be broken and it is possible to get away with breaking the rules. They are a social contract, but sneaky people can outfox other people. They can cheat on the rules and win.

Some one actually wrote the Christian rule book. It was God (Holy Spirit) inspiring about thirty six authors over about sixteen centuries. Point is: It is God's rule book.

Only a moron would think he could break God's rules and get away with it.

God wrote the book, created the game, and monitors the players.

The
Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit
*for theirs is
the kingdom of heaven*

Blessed are they that mourn
for they shall be comforted

Blessed are the meek
for they shall inherit the earth

Blessed are they which
do hunger and thirst
after righteousness
for they shall be filled

Matthew 5:3-10

Blessed are the merciful
for they shall obtain mercy

Blessed are the pure in heart
for they shall see God

Blessed are the peacemakers
*for they shall be called
the children of God*

Blessed are they which are
persecuted for righteousness' sake
for theirs is

the kingdom of heaven

Here's the thing. Today's reading is from Matthew chapter seven. This actually concludes a larger section which starts in Matthew chapter five, verse one. You may know this part as the famous "Beatitudes". The Beatitudes are on wall hangings, bookmarks, t-shirts, face book pages, coffee cups and God only knows where else. They are kinda like the Ten Commandments. Christians everybody revere them but no one knows them or follows them. Seriously, can you recite them? You can't follow what you don't know.

In the Old Testament as in the New, they were from God's lips to our ears. They have more in common than you might think. Exodus chapter 20, going from verse 2 to 17, was the basic stipulations or general rules of conduct between God and his chosen people. The rest of chapter 20, 21, 22, and 23 all serve to flesh out the ten principles. The rest of the Testament clarifies the commandments and tells what happened when the Jews did or did not follow the rule book. God sent coaches, or referees if you will, in the name of prophets to get them back to the rules.

Matthew does a very similar thing in the New Testament. Early on, he lays out the basic stipulations or rules for the New Covenant. You should know that Matthew was writing to a Jewish audience. Think of it like this; in the First Covenant, God gave the people their instructions through Moses. Mathew says: Look, in the Second Covenant, God gave the people their instructions through Jesus. Moses on Mount Sinai, Jesus in Sermon on the Mount. (Notice Luke records the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Plain. Matthew has a lot of follow up statements. Luke does not.)

Moses lays out the Ten Basic conditions for the First Covenant, Jesus lays out the eight Basic Conditions of the Second Covenant. Any Jewish person should see the similarities. What does that mean for us?



Exodus 21:18 to 23:33 give depth to the “Big Ten”. Matthew 5:11 to 7:29, gives depth to the “Big Eight”. Everything else in his Gospel, and the New Testament for that matter, flesh out what happens when people do or do not obey. The epistles are the messengers calling people to obey the New Covenant, which Matthew lays out here. Not done.

Chapter seven, today’s reading, ends with the famous story of the wise and foolish builders. “Anyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice...” What words? The entire sermon compiled by Matthew from chapter five through seven.

Play by God’s rules or go home. Galatians 6:7 says Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

We say what goes around comes around.

Remember that we are not talking about the Rules of Life.

We are talking about the Rules for Life.

You can't learn them, then break them, and expect to get away with it.

Don't care who you are. You are not that good.

God game offers an all
expense paid trip to
Paradise,
But you have to obey the
rules or the coupon is null and
void.
Cheaters don't win with God.
Joshua said "Choose this day
whom you will serve."

Christ is Lord of all
or
He is not Lord at all.

