

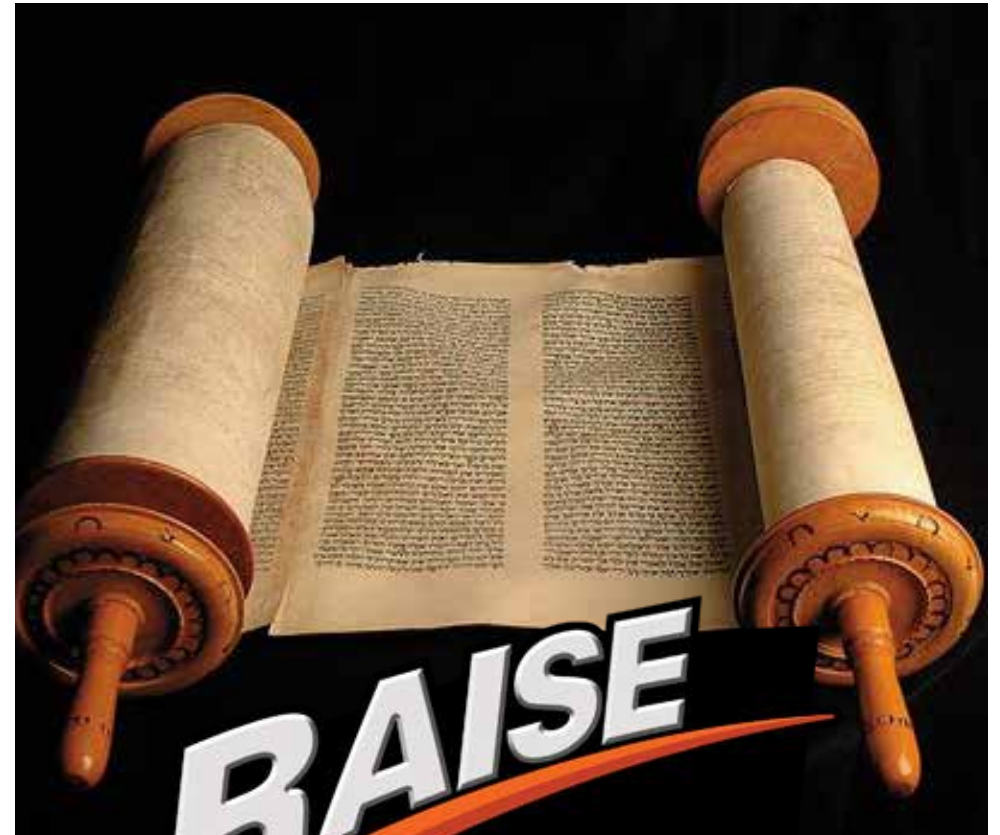
THE PRIORITY ENHANCED



THE PRIDE EXHIBITED



Becoming the righteousness of God through Jesus



RAISE the BAR

PART 4

MATTHEW 5:20



I tell you that if you are no more obedient than the teachers of the law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι ἐὰν μὴ περισσεύσῃ ὑμῶν ἡ δικαιοσύνη πλεῖον τῶν γραμματέων καὶ Φαρισαίων, οὐ μὴ εἰσέλθῃτε εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τῶν οὐρανῶν.



THE PROGRESS EXPLAINED



THE PURPOSE EXPRESSED



The PHARISEES were the most influential of all the Jewish religious sects of Jesus' day. The word "Pharisee" literally means "the SEPARATED ones, SEPARATISTS", which sums up the basic nature of their beliefs.

They were the strictest LEGALISTS of the day, who pledged themselves to obey and observe ALL the countless restrictive rules, traditions and ceremonial laws of orthodox Judaism. They considered themselves to be the only true followers of God's Laws, and therefore felt that they were much better and holier than anyone else.

Thus they separated themselves not only from the non-Jews--whom they absolutely despised and considered pagan "Gentile dogs"--but they even set themselves above and apart from their own Jewish brethren.



HOW GOOD DO I HAVE TO BE TO GET TO HEAVEN?



THE PROBLEM EXPOSED