**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr April 11, 2021**

**Christianity Is More Than A Religion**

Mark 2:23-3:1-6

**Key Truth:** Keeping religious rules will never make God love you more.

**The Background Of The Sabbath:**

1. A day of rest. **Genesis 2:1-3**

2. A holy day. **Exodus 20:8**

3. It was a gift to Israel to show their sanctification.

 **Exodus 23:10-11/Mark 2:27-28**

4. It is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. **Colossians 2:16-23**

**Two Sabbath Encounters:**

1. What is considered work on the Sabbath? **Mark 2:23-28**

2. Is it ok to help the hurting on the Sabbath? **Mark 3:1-6**

**Principles To Prevent Us From Becoming Pharisees:**

1. Don’t think you have to have all the God answers.

 **Deuteronomy 29:29**

2. Remember to treat the Bible like a mirror and not like

 binoculars. **James 1:22-25**

3. God’s rules were never meant to burden us but to bless us.

 **Exodus 20:7-17/Matthew 11:28-30**

4. Religious zeal can be dangerous when it is separated from

 love. **Matthew 22:34-40/Romans 10:1-4**

5. The church is called to bring Jesus to people.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank Jesus for His love and grace that defines and completes you. Follow His example, by prioritizing the spiritual and physical needs of others.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Have you ever been around someone whose consistently judgmental or legalistic? What was it like being around them and how did they impact their family and friends?

While keeping the Sabbath isn’t a command, what can we learn in the following passages about our need for rest and how God can work in us when we make time for it?

Isaiah 40:28-31

Mark 6:30-31

Matthew 11:28-30

What are the biggest challenges you face in creating enough margin in your life to allow you to rest and renew?

Take some time to think through your answers to the questions below rate yourself on a scale 1(meaning No) 5(most definitely yes)

Do I have a tendency to...

...add extra rules for other people to live by?

...use the Bible as binoculars instead of as a mirror?

...major on minors?

...love rules and ideas more than people?

Who defined the rules about fasting and the Sabbath? What did Jesus have to say about these rules?

Read Mark 3:6: Why did the Pharisees and the Herodians, who were known enemies join forces to destroy Jesus?

The Pharisees taught that a day of the week had priority over people and their needs. Has there ever been a time when you felt that traditions, rules or regulations of the church were more important than you? Explain.