**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr March 26, 2023**

**Is The Old Testament Still Relevant For Today?**

Matthew 5:17-20

**Key Truth:** For Christians, the Bible is the standard by which we govern our lives. It reveals God’s character, requirements for holiness, and redemptive plan for humanity.

**Jesus View Of The Tanakh (Old Testament):**

1. It is the revealed Will of God. Matthew 4:4

2. It finds its fulfillment in Him. John 5:39-40

3. It is authoritative for teaching and instruction. 2 Timothy 3:16

4. It is relevant for today. Matthew 5:19

 A. God’s moral laws are timeless.

**Jesus View of Righteousness:**

1. Righteousness is the character and conduct that conforms to

 the will of God.

2. The scribes and Pharisees had external righteousness

 without any inner spiritual transformation of the heart.

 Matthew 23:27-28

3. Jesus requires His disciples to live an inside out spiritually

 transformed life that begins in the heart. Jeremiah 31:31-34,

 Ezekiel 36:25-27

**What We Learn:**

1. The Bible is not just some book of random men’s opinion.

 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21

2. Trying to keep the Law of God will never make you righteous

 in God’s eyes. Romans 3:19-20, Galatians 3:10-14

3. Righteousness comes through faith in Jesus. Romans 3:21-25

4. Salvation begins when your heart is transformed by the Spirit

 of God. Psalm 51:10, Romans 10:9-13

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Rejoice that Jesus kept God’s Law perfectly, earning a righteousness that would be credited to everyone who responds to the gospel message with faith and repentance.

**Food For Thought:**

When people in our world today hear “the Law,” what usually comes to mind?

Let’s place ourselves in the crowd on the day of Jesus’ sermon. What did the phrase “the Law,” or even “the Law and the Prophets,” mean to them?

What did Jesus indicate was His relationship to God’s Law? What did He say about people’s relationship to God’s Law? What does this mean for the Christian? What does it mean for the non-Christian?

Which do you see when you look at God’s Law—an impossible, condemning standard or a joyful blueprint for obedience? Explain your thoughts.

According to Ezekiel 36:25–27, what makes heart-righteousness possible for us?

How can we move beyond the pretense of external righteousness into a life of holiness lived from our hearts?

Do you ever feel like you must perform for God to approve of you? In what kinds of situations are you most likely to feel that way?

Does that need for performance-approval bleed into other areas of your life (i.e., parenting, work, friendships, etc.)? If so, what does that indicate about the way you view God’s love?

What in your current life or your past might contribute to the belief that you have to perform for God to love you?