

Morning Lesson

I'M LOOKING FOR A CHURCH THAT IS NOT SO...
2 Cor. 3:17,18

INTRO:

1. Someone out there is looking for a church.
2. They have some criteria they are looking for.

I....DOGMATIC.

II....JUDGMENTAL.

III....FULL OF RULES.

- A. We, as the church, have missed the mark if we do not teach. **Rom. 14:17, 18; Matt. 23:23**
- B. The folks that bothered Jesus the most were the Pharisees because they made up rules and bound them on God's people. **Matt. 23:4, 13**
 1. Paul understood them because he had been one of them. **Rom. 10:3**
 2. Salvation is not earned by good works. **Eph.2:8, 9**
 3. More than lip service must be given to the spirit of the law. **2 Cor. 3:17, 18**
- C. Rules are not an end to themselves, but they are necessary.
- D. God gave his word to be loved, learned, and obeyed – not ignored. **James 1:21-25; Eccl. 12:13; John 14:15; John 15:10**
- E. Obedience shows that we understand the spirit of the law. **Psalm 111:10; 1 John 5:1-3**
 1. Christians are set free in Christ through obeying the truth. **Rom. 14:1, 4; John 8:24, 31, 32; John 12:48-50; Rom. 6:17, 18**
 2. Submission is the key to accessing God's spiritual treasures. **Heb. 5:8, 9; Eph. 2:8, 9**
 3. The result – liberty – follows the cause – obedience. **1 John 2:3-5**
- F. We need to encourage people to look for a church that practices both the spirit and the letter of the law...and we need to be that church.