

**Series: JESUS IS THE SUBJECT**  
**Title: The Subject of the Sabbath**  
**Speaker: Bob Marvel**  
**Date: February 2-3, 2019**

Start by reading Mark 1:27-28, 2:18-3:6.

1. What stood out to you in reading Mark this week or from Bob's weekend message?
2. This message is all about Jesus and the Sabbath, so let's try to understand it. Where and when did the Sabbath begin? When did it become a commandment? How did people in Jesus' day observe it? Can you recall any of the 39 illustrations Bob listed on how Orthodox Jews keep the Sabbath today? Does that strike you as a burden or a blessing? Do you think people see God's commands as a burden?
3. Imagine you are in the synagogue listening to Jesus teach. You see him call on a man to stand and it looks like Jesus is about to heal on the Sabbath. You know the rabbis forbid all work on the Sabbath. As a devout person, how would you have responded?
4. Who does Jesus claim to be when he tells them, "So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath?" Mark 2:28 and how does he prove he has such authority?
5. Explain Tim Keller's quote, "Jesus is here to end religion and replace it with himself." As a group name as many religious observances/commands Jesus transforms or replaces with himself?
6. Beyond the obvious good that comes from having your hand healed, what other benefit did this man's healing bring him?
7. If the Sabbath was made for man, do you think all of God's commands are made for our welfare?
8. How do we keep from making the same mistake of hurting people in the name of religion, of making something beautiful a burden?

**OVER**

9. Should Christians observe the Sabbath today? When asked about controversial subjects, Jesus would always point back to the Garden of Eden for the answer. Why? Because the Creation account in Genesis shows God's ideal way for people to live. (See Matthew 19:4 as an example.) If keeping the Sabbath was part of the ideal way of living, then it seems likely that it would continue as a command today. Yet in Colossians 2:16-19 Paul teaches that Sabbath keeping as a religious ceremony is no longer in effect. How do we reconcile Jesus and Paul when it comes to the Sabbath? Should Christians observe it today? Why or why not? How or how not?
10. What does Dallas Willard mean when he states, "Grace is not opposed to effort. Grace is opposed to earning?"