

Romans #037

“Ritual without reality is meaningless”

Part 2

Romans 2:25-27

The rituals of the Law were designed to teach the spiritual reality that no one could enter the presence of God until his sins were legally dealt with.

During the united kingdom, the nation is referred to as Israel.

In the divided kingdom, Judah was the southern kingdom and Israel was the northern kingdom.

But the Pharisees do and they convene at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD at the Council of Jamnia to answer the question: How are our religious beliefs going to survive when we don't have the Ark of the Covenant, an altar for sacrifice or a temple to worship God? Reformed Judaism rejects the historic traditions of the Jews and their Orthodoxy to the point of complete liberalism.

In the first century, the Pharisees present a conservative view of the OT text but it's similar to what we see in Roman Catholicism:

Scripture plus tradition.

The 5 Solas of the Reformation:

1. *Sola Scriptura* (“Scripture alone”):

The Bible alone is our highest authority.

2. *Sola Fide* (“faith alone”): We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ.

3. *Sola Gratia* (“grace alone”):

We are saved by the grace of God alone.

4. *Sola Christos* (“Christ alone”): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior and King.

5. *Soli Deo Gloria* (“to the glory of God alone”): We live for the glory of God alone.

“Israel” comes from God as a name or title that He gave to Jacob at Peniel because he wrestled with God and then came to be one who was a prince with God.

The term “the Jews” becomes quite common in 2<sup>nd</sup> century Christian writings.

Circumcision was an operation and at the same time, a ritual.

The ritual as it began in Genesis 17, was designed to set apart the Jewish nation of Israel in God's plan as

His representative in the

Age of Israel.

Circumcision was recognition of the role of Israel under God's grace and therefore it had great significance.

Circumcision recognized that Israel would be blessed of God not only through spiritual principles but also in the fact that a maximum number of Jewish men would find the one woman designed for them and live in great blessing.

**Jesus Christ rejected human good, which is equivalent to the portion of the foreskin removed in circumcision.**

Today, we have a spiritual circumcision where grace eliminates what is useless; legalism. **It was not so much the outward circumcision that was significant, it was the truth related to it.**

Ishmael was a trouble-maker all of his life but he had moments of great blessing, all associated with his father.

Obviously circumcision was beneficial to any Jew who had the same amount of the Word in his soul that Abraham had when he was circumcised.

Even though the Jew has the genes of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in his body, he must have the doctrine of Abraham in his soul.

Circumcision is intended to be related to the believer who is adjusted to the justice of God and it's is a ritual without reality for unbelievers.

**Jacob is the continuation of the Jewish race; Esau is the continuation of the Semitic race of the Edomites.**

All Jewish males were circumcised on the 8th day, but this was only the ritual anticipating the reality.

The blessing from Abraham's maturity adjustment to the justice of God through maximum truth resident in his soul, was a part of the promise that he would have a son from his own loins and from this son would come a new race from which the Messiah would enter the world.

Neither the ritual of circumcision nor the function of keeping the Law can provide salvation.

Strong believers never need ritual to lean on because they have the reality of biblical truth.

A Gentile minus circumcision fulfils this action by accomplishing the purpose of the Law in adjusting to the justice of God.

In other words, you can never understand God until you make that first adjustment, until you have the righteousness of God.

Believers who ignore

this principle become

self-righteous do-gooders

who intensify the problem, thus creating chaos, national degeneration, revolution and historical catastrophe.

**If God can provide the greater in the imputation of perfect righteousness, it follows with stronger reason that He will not withhold the lesser in the imputation of blessings in time.**

**Man glorifies God through processing and using grace provision: living grace followed by dying grace.**