

# Romans 2:25-29

## Circumcision Made Uncircumcision

### 1. 2:25 - Circumcision Keeping the Law

- a. Circumcision was the token of Israel's covenant promise and separation to God.
- b. Circumcision in the flesh meant promises, wealth, land, hope, God, salvation - Eph 2:11
- c. *"if thou keep the law"* - This circumcised Israel under law, they must keep it (will in NT)
  - i. Keeping the law meant profit; breaking the law meant no profit <- covenant
  - ii. Circumcision described as benefit not bondage here - not Gal 5:1-6, 6:15
- d. *"breaker of the law"* - meant no inheritance, hope, God, glory, eternal life
- e. Being circumcised did not benefit them if they failed to keep the law.

### 2. Circumcision Made Uncircumcision

- a. Dispensationally important: not the first-time circumcision treated as uncircumcision.
- b. Esau, Joseph's brothers, Israel Num 14:11-12, 22-23, Jdg 2:12-14, Jer 9:25-26
- c. Stephen declares them uncircumcised for not keeping the law - Acts 7:51-52
- d. This describes a fall of Israel to the spiritual level of Gentiles - disobedient & distant.
- e. This dispensation is the first time that salvation goes out due to Israel's failure

### 3. 2:26 - Uncircumcision Counted Circumcision

- a. Gentiles counted for circumcision (Beware! This is where necks are broken.)
  - i. *Wrong theological slip: Church = Gentiles = circumcision = we are spiritual Israel*
- b. This does not describe the church, the Body of Christ. Why? ...
  - i. The Body consists not only of Gentiles - 1 Cor 12:13
  - ii. In the new creature (Body) there is no Jew nor Gentile - Col 3:10-11, Gal 3:28
  - iii. Uncircumcision counted as circumcision not a new creature - Gal 5:2, 2 Cor 5:17
  - iv. Rom 2 does not require Christ to be true - Gal 5:2-6 (see Ruth 2:5-12)
  - v. Rom 2 does not require Israel's fall to be true - Rom 11:11, 25 (see Gen 20:3-5)
  - vi. Uncircum. must "keep the righteousness of the law" "fulfil the law" - cf. 2:13-15
- c. Some Gentiles can get privilege that some Jews do not - Matt 8:9-12, Acts 10:1-2, 45

### 4. 2:27 - Obedient Uncircumcision Judging Disobedient Circumcision

- a. This is an argument to the heart of Israel's conscience (e.g. Pharaoh, Nineveh, Hab)
- b. *"fulfill the law, judge thee"* - a judge is a doer of the law not merely a hearer - John 8:7
- c. *"letter and circumcision"* - The covenant requirements created more accountability
- d. *"dost transgress the law"* - They broke the law because they first had it, they blasphemed because they bore the sign of God's separation in their flesh.

### 5. 2:28-29 - The Jewish Law

- a. *"not a Jew"* - Circumcision does not make one a Jew, but keeping the law does.
- b. *"that circumcision"* - The circumcision spoken of in Rom 2:25 that profits

- c. Jew outward = circumcised flesh = obey in appearance - Mt 23:23-27
- d. Jew inward = circumcised heart = obey from the heart (good conscience) - 1 Pet 3:21
- e. This was the law of Israel - Deu 10:12-13, 16, not a new revelation - Matt 22:36, Jn 4:23
- f. The letter = what is read and seen of men -- The spirit = what is read and seen of God
- g. God will circumcise their hearts in the new covenant - Deu 30:1-8, Acts 7:51

But now: our circumcision is in Christ, and not of the law nor our work (in or out) - Col 2:11

Our circumcision by Christ's cross separates us from our old man/body of sin - Rom 6:5-6

The Body of Christ not physical nor spiritual Israel.

The new creature is not a spiritual Jew.