

## Divine Truth Simply Stated

By: Dan Jenkins

I remember my dad saying to me that sometimes the very best way to deal with a problem was to approach it head on. Often we try to finesse our way around problems and never confront them directly. It is interesting to see how the early church dealt with the issue of the Jews binding circumcision on the Gentiles who had just become Christians.

The Holy Spirit first clarified the nature and the history of circumcision. The Jews failed to understand that it was not the covenant, but a sign of the covenant (**Gen. 17:11; Rom. 4:11**). God gave the rainbow as a sign of the covenant never to flood the earth again. The rainbow was not the covenant, but a reminder of that covenant. We do not glorify the rainbow. However, the Jews had glorified the physical act of circumcision and not the covenant.

Paul described how the Jews had glorified this sign in Galatians chapter six. He said the Jews "...desire to make a good showing in the flesh...only that they may not suffer persecution...they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh" (vs. 12-13). He also showed that the covenant was made when Abram was uncircumcised (**Rom. 4:10**).

In three places, the Holy Spirit addresses this problem by simply stating the truth and confronting it directly. Hear His words to the church at Corinth. "Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing" (**1 Cor. 7:19**). Whether one is circumcised or uncircumcised, it

does not matter! The rest of the verse shows that what does matter is simply stating honest truth. The important issue is "...keeping the commandments of God is what matters." Simple truth confronted head on!

This language of direct confrontation is found in Paul's letter to the Galatians. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love" (5:6). Circumcision mattered before the cross, but now it is a Christian's faith motivated by love that matters. Circumcision avails nothing! What matters is faith that does what Jesus says.

Circumcision was a sign to the Jews under that old covenant but that has all changed. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation" (6:15). Christianity was not a modification or an amendment to the Old Testament. It was far different. Judaism was replaced by a new way where Jews became an entirely new creation. The same was true of the Gentiles. Their devotion to the covenants of their gods did not matter. What mattered was that God's new plan made a new creature of every man of every nation.

It is so revealing how God dealt with the Jews teaching about circumcision and simply confronted it head on!

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# Protection from Those “Unholy Bugs”

By: Selected

This must be the case in many other places also, but if you do any driving through central Florida, especially at night, the front of your car is going to get a makeover. It is a state law (seemingly) that at least 75,000 bugs (of varying sizes and substance) must slam full-speed into the front of your car. But, don't dare try to clean them off your windshield with your wipers, else you smear them all over and make it impossible to see where you are going. When you get home, it is best to clean them off immediately, lest they bake themselves into the finish of your car.

Some of that may be a bit hyperbole, but it is nonetheless an ongoing issue. It is reminiscent, in a way, of the Christian life. We are bombarded with assaults from the devil on an ongoing basis, and trying to clean it up ourselves just makes things worse. Wouldn't it be nice, in your car but more so in your Christian walk, if there was some kind of protective coating that could be applied to keep the “unholy bugs” of life from sticking? Maybe there is.

The Christians to whom the book of Hebrews was written were really struggling with their faith—there were a lot of “unholy bugs” that were impeding their walk with the Lord and even turning them away from Him. The penman of the book emphasizes the superiority and “better-ness” of Christ in all things and the protective coating for the Christian life that holiness is guaranteed to have. The inspired writer pleaded with these Christians to “pursue...holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (**Heb. 12:14**). Do we do that? Is holiness our goal? Do we

understand its essentiality and blessings?

In our English Bibles, we have another word in Hebrews that comes from the same Greek root as “holiness,” and that is the word “sanctified,” which means “to be set apart, separated, consecrated to God.” Think about what we learn and need to apply from that word in this book.

The goal of Christ when He came was to “sanctify the people with His own blood” (13:12), for we can only be “sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ” (10:10, 14). He wanted to sanctify and bring “many sons to glory,” but He could only accomplish that “through sufferings” (2:10). So, for us, He “suffered outside the gate” (13:12). When we pursue a sanctified life for Him, then we become “one” with “He who sanctifies” us,” and He is “not ashamed to call [us] brethren” (2:11).

Living a holy life makes us a target for ongoing assaults from the devil with as many “unholy bugs” as he can launch our way. But, the more we pursue the set-apart life for our Lord, the more He will provide us with His protection.



# Upcoming Events

Summer Series Wednesdays: Adults will be in the main auditorium for the theme “It’s Who You Know” and the youth will be in the fellowship hall learning Bible stories about God’s animals.

TODAY: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning worship with a 12:45pm service to follow. Please bring a covered dish/dessert to share. We will be celebrating the graduations of: Kirk FitzSimmons, Myra FitzSimmons, Caleb Lehtinen and Melani Lehtinen.

Sunday, July 13: Youth devo after evening worship.

Area events:

\*Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.\*

# Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

The family of five year old Kai Lucera. Kai passed away last week from cancer. He is a family member of one of Nicolette Garcia’s clients.

Guadalupe Rodriguez is requesting prayers for his health. He is at Citizens hospital room 687.

Mary Jo White had bypass surgery last week and is recovering at home.

Allen Clifton who has completed his radiation treatments.

Eddie Serenil who had a stint procedure done last week. He is at home recovering.

# Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

# Service Roster

Week of July 6, 2025

## Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Benny Horton  
Song Leader ..... Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer.....Barry Lehtinen  
Closing Prayer.....Ken Dorries

## Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Bryant Siegel  
Cup..... Lupe Escojido  
Offering.....James Cammock  
Assist.....Jack Jobes  
Assist.....Caleb Lehtinen  
Assist.....Desmon Flonnory

## Sunday Evening

Song Leader ..... Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer..... Kevin Sheeran  
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....James Cammock/  
Lupe Escojido

## Wednesday Evening

Adult Class .....Desmon Flonnory  
Song Leader .....Luke FitzSimmons  
Devotional ..... Desmon Flonnory

## Other

Prepare Communion for July .....McCoys

# Congregational News This Week

## Birthdays

Kanin Jacobs.....July 9

## Anniversaries

Mark & Nia FitzSimmons.....July 9

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &  
Winter Youth Retreat  
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and  
Communication  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Minister

Cody McCoy

## Weekly Reading

In this the love of God was manifested toward us,  
that God has sent His only begotten Son into the  
world, that we might live through Him.  
1 John 4:9 NKJV

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of June 29, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....60  
A.M. Worship.....90  
P.M. Worship.....54  
Wednesday Worship.....60

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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