



Romans-5—October 13, 2021

Romans 2:25-29

25 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. 26 So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? 27 The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker. 28 A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. 29 No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.

1. Is an outward **sign enough**?
 - a. Genesis 17:11 *You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.*
 - b. Deuteronomy 30:6 *And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*
 - c. Romans 2:25-27 *Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. 26 So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? 27 The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.*

2. We need the **right surgeon**.
 - a. Romans 2:28 *A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.*

3. Circumcision of the **heart** is done by **God**.
 - a. Romans 2:29a *No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart...*

- b. Challenge of **Moses**.
Deuteronomy 10:16 *Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.*
 - c. Challenge of **Jeremiah**.
Jeremiah 4:4 *Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, circumcise your hearts, you people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, or my wrath will flare up and burn like fire because of the evil you have done—burn with no one to quench it.*
 - d. Challenge of **Ezekiel**.
Ezekiel 44:9 *This is what the Sovereign Lord says: No foreigner uncircumcised in heart and flesh is to enter my sanctuary, not even the foreigners who live among the Israelites.*
 - e. Challenge of **Stephen**.
Acts 7:51 *“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!*
 - f. By the **Spirit**.
Romans 2:29b *No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit...*
Titus 3:4-5 *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,*
 - g. Not by **written code**.
Romans 2:29c *No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code...*
 - h. Recognition is from **God**, not from **men**.
Romans 2:29d *No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person’s praise is not from other people, but from God.*
4. What is the real **advantage**?
- a. Romans 3:1-4 *What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? 2 Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God. 3 What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God’s faithfulness? 4 Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written: “So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge.”*

- b. A godly heritage is **valuable**, but it **cannot save** us.
5. We must not allow the **distorting** of **grace**.
- a. Romans 3:5-8 *But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) 6 Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? 7 Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" 8 Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is just!*
 - b. Jude 1:4 *For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.*
6. We all have the same **need** of **salvation**.
- a. Romans 3:9-20 *What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. 10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." 13 "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." 14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 ruin and misery mark their ways, 17 and the way of peace they do not know." "There is no fear of God before their eyes." 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.*
 - b. The Word **exposes** where we are **wrong**.
7. The Word give us God's **solution** of **hope**.
- a. Romans 3:23-24 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*