

## **Right Division Soundbites # 11**

### **Physical & Spiritual Circumcision / Spiritual Circumcision Only**

Years ago a list of contrasts, prepared by a 'mid-Acts' dean, was made available for distribution. It was titled 'Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth', and suggested as soundbites to create teaching situations. There were 26 separate issues listed. We plan to deal with one topic on Sunday mornings.

**For your information, the titles and verses (listed directly below in the box) are exactly as they appear on the dean's chart.**

<b>11. Physical &amp; Spiritual Circumcision</b> Gen 17:9-14, Luke 2:21, Deut 30:6	<b>Spiritual Circumcision Only</b> Col 2:11-13 (FYI, Rom 6:1-6 was marked out with a pen)
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The dean's first passage shows the **ORIGIN** of physical circumcision.

It was the **SIGN** of the covenant between God and Abraham and his seed:

**Gen 17:9-14** And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

10 **This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me (God) and you (Abraham) and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.**

11 **And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.**

12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

The symbol of God's covenant with Abraham's physical descendants was never-ending:

13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised:

and **my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.**

14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

Next, the dean presented Jesus' physical circumcision:

**Luke 2:21** And when **eight days** were accomplished  
for **the circumcising of the child**, his name was called **JESUS**,  
which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The last verse the dean used for the left side of his chart ....

showed that God will have Israel's **heart**:

**Deut 30:6** And **the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart**,  
and the heart of thy seed,  
to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart,  
and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

We will back up 3 verses before **Deut 30:6** to understand that God will give  
Israel **spiritual circumcision** when He returns to gather them from their  
dispersion (scattering) .... and bring them into the Promised Land:

**Deut 30:3-5** That then **the LORD thy God** will turn thy captivity,  
and have compassion upon thee,  
and **will return and gather thee** from all the nations,  
whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.  
4 If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven,  
from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee,  
and from thence will he fetch thee:  
5 And **the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land**  
which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it;  
and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.

The dean skipped over the passage where God told Israel what He  
required of them .... and for them to **circumcise their own heart**:

**Deut 10:12-16** And now, Israel,  
what doth the LORD thy God require of thee (also Micah 6:8), but

- to fear the LORD thy God,
- to walk in all his ways,
- and to love him,
- and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

(Deut 10:) 13 To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

14 Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

15 Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.

16 **Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.**

The dean didn't mention it, but Jesus said that circumcision was in the law of Moses, even though it dated back to the patriarchs **before** the law:

**John 7:21-22** Jesus answered and **said** unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel.

22 **Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;)**  
and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man.

Now we'll move to the right side of the dean's chart where he lists just 1 passage to demonstrate **spiritual circumcision only**.

It is true that, clearly, **Col 2:11** is NOT physical circumcision:

**Col 2:11-13** In whom (Christ Jesus the Lord - from Col 2:6) also **ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands,** in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:  
12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

In time past, Israel was the Circumcision, and they classified us Gentiles by our Uncircumcision (when we were 'without Christ'). But now, because we Gentiles are now 'in Christ Jesus' .... we are made 'one' WITH them Israel:

**Eph 2:11-13** Wherefore remember, that ye being **in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;**

(Eph 2:) 12 That at that time ye (**Gentiles**) were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 **But now in Christ Jesus** ye (**Gentiles**) who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Now we Gentiles are the circumcision:

**Phil 3:3** For **we are the circumcision,**

- which worship God in the spirit,
- and rejoice in Christ Jesus,
- and have no confidence in the flesh.

God, through Paul, explained the circumcision issue to the saints at Rome.

If a circumcised Jew could keep the law, then 'no problem' .... but his problem was that he could not keep it! Therefore when he broke the law, his physical circumcision was made void and could not help him with God:

**Rom 2:25-29** For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

But if an uncircumcised Gentile had a heart to obey God, his physically uncircumcised status was changed to be as if he was spiritually circumcised:

26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?

27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?

Being 'in Christ' is the key. The true Israel of God .... the true Jew .... is now all those who have a spiritually circumcised heart .... regardless of whether he was physically circumcised or not:

28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly;

**neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:**

29 But **he is a Jew, which is one inwardly;**

**and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit,**

**and not in the letter;** whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Again the scriptures show righteousness is given to those of faith ....

no matter whether they are physically circumcised or not:

**Rom 4:8-16** Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

9 **Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only,  
or upon the uncircumcision also?**

for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

10 How was it then reckoned?

when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision?

**Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.**

11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of **the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:**

12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but **who also walk in the steps of that faith** of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

15 Because the law worketh wrath:

for where no law is, there is no transgression.

16 Therefore **it is of faith, that it might be by grace;**

**to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed;**

**not to that only which is of the law,**

**but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham;**

**who is the father of us all,**

The Bible teaches that because we are 'in Christ', we are Abraham's seed:

**Gal 3:28-29** **There is neither Jew nor Greek,**

there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female:

**for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

29 And **if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed,**

and heirs according to the promise.

Being 'in Christ' dissolves the issue of physical circumcision:

**Gal 5:6** For **in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision;** but faith which worketh by love.

As a new creature 'in Christ', circumcision or uncircumcision doesn't matter:

**Gal 6:15** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision,  
but a new creature.

In the new man, neither is there circumcision nor uncircumcision:

**Col 3:9-11** Lie not one to another,  
seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;  
10 And have put on the new man,  
which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:  
11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew,  
circumcision nor uncircumcision,  
Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free:  
but Christ is all, and in all.

Circumcision is no longer important. But what is important to God is that we keep HIS commandments - NOT the "commandments of MEN that turn from the truth" (Titus 1:14):

**1 Cor 7:19** Circumcision is nothing,  
and uncircumcision is nothing,  
but the keeping of the commandments of God.

The dean is a **Joker** of the **CROOKED Royal Jester**, neither of whom has regard for keeping God's commandments. They see that as 'putting them under the law'. They are **stiff-necked** (Deut 10:16, Acts 7:51) and refuse to apply any verses 'outside of Paul' .... like when Jesus said:

**John 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments.

The 'mid-Acts-ers' won't use the writings of John as relevant to their lives either. They totally excuse themselves from following this part of the Bible:

**1 John 2:3** And hereby we do know that we know him,  
if we keep his commandments.

Jesus said His yoke is easy, and His burden is light (Matt 11:30) ....

but 'mid-Acts-ers' won't bind them around their necks (Prov 3:3):

**1 John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:  
and his commandments are not grievous.

There was a crooked man, who made a crooked start (claiming to be KJV).  
He founded a crooked school and drew a crooked chart.  
He sold crooked tapes and books to his crooked louse,  
And they 'lied' together in his little crooked house:

**Luke 6:46-49** And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord,**  
**and do not the things which I say?**

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them,  
I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an house,  
and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock  
(*"that Rock was Christ" - 1 Cor 10:4, 3:11; Eph 2:20; Isa 28:16*)  
and when the flood arose,  
the stream beat vehemently upon that house,  
and could not shake it:  
for it was founded upon a rock.

49 But he that heareth, and doeth not,  
is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth;  
against which the stream did beat vehemently,  
and immediately it fell;  
and **the ruin of that house was great.**

Regarding the dean's issue #11 .... the truth he fails to admit is that

**"WE ARE NOW THE CIRCUMCISION."**

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"*