

# Romans

## (14) Circumcision

### *The prevailing errors taught about circumcision...4:9-10*

What question about Abraham's salvation by faith is anticipated by Paul?

**If Abraham was saved by faith, why did God demand circumcision for him/descendants?**

What has Paul already taught us about circumcision? Rom.2:28-29; Gen.17:10-14

**True circumcision is of the heart, by the Spirit. Physical act was to confirm spiritual.**

What fundamental truth about Abraham does he emphasize? vs.9-10 Gen.17:23-26; 16:2-4

**Which came first, circumcision or faith (salvation)? Faith, of course, by > 13 years.**

What is the absolutely devastating implication of Paul's point here?

**Abraham was saved (made righteous) as an uncircumcised gentile! (no Jews at that time).**

What is the real underlying error taught throughout Judaism re circumcision?

**Jews were taught that circumcision was their means of guaranteed salvation.**

And at its heart, what is this simply another form of? 3:28

**It's simply another way of getting saved, made righteous, by works, apart from faith.**

Is the fundamental issue here unique to Jews?

**Absolutely not! Virtually all gentiles adhere to some sort of self-works righteousness.**

What are some of the ways this is taught in "Christendom"? Mt.7:21-23

**Baptism, church membership, legalistic set of rules, giving, service, etc...**

### *The real reason for circumcision...4:11-12*

What is the first thing Paul teaches about circumcision? What is the sign for? vs.11

**Circumcision was a sign or seal (Rev.5:1) of his faith while uncircumcised.**

Paul's next point, devastating to the Law-trusting Jew, is what? vs.11b

**Abraham was 'sealed' as the father of all who believe (salvation) and are NOT circumcised**

And, of course, he is also the father of what other group? vs.12

**He is the father of the circumcised (Jew) who ALSO walk in Abraham's faith.**

So, was the circumcised Jew saved BY circumcision? by keeping the law? then by what??

**Not by circumcision or the law but by faith. JUST LIKE ABRAHAM.**

What about circumcision today for Gentiles? ICor.7:17-20; Acts 16:3;

**Principle: No spiritual benefit. Admonition: ICor.7:20. Exception: Enable ministry/Jews.**

What about circumcision today for Jews? Josh.5:2-7; ICor.7:17-20

**It's a perpetual sign of Abraham's salvation by faith. Only the saved will understand...**

What are (4) specific things God demonstrates through circumcision?

**1. Salvation is by faith apart from law 2. God's covenant with nation 3. spiritual circumcision of the heart 4. All of these are gender neutral.**