

## **“Matters of the Heart”**

**Romans 2:25-29**

**November 1, 2020**

*Genesis 17:10–11 - <sup>10</sup> “This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup> “And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.*

*Exodus 12:48–49 - <sup>48</sup> “But if a stranger sojourns with you, and celebrates the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat of it. <sup>49</sup> “The same law shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you.”*

*“In the hereafter, Abraham will sit at the entrance to Gehenna [Hell], and permit no circumcised Israelite to descend therein.” – Rabbi Levi*

### **I. Physical Circumcision Is No Automatic Benefit on Judgement Day (vs. 25-27)**

- A. Circumcision is of no value for those who do not keep God’s Law.
- B. The Law-keeping discussed here is faith-produced law-keeping, and not hypothetical perfect law-keeping or self-imposed perfect law-keeping.

*1 Corinthians 7:19 - For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God.*

### **II. Circumcision of the Heart Is What Matters on Judgment Day (vs. 28-29)**

- A. Circumcision did more than mark Israel as God’s own.
- B. It called them to look to God in faith for individual salvation.

*Deuteronomy 10:16 - Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.*

*Deuteronomy 30:6 - And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*

*Psalms 51:9–10 - <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

- C. Only Jews (or Gentiles!) with circumcised hearts will be acquitted on judgment day.

*Galatians 3:7 - Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.*

### **Application – Circumcision and Baptism**

- A. Like circumcision, baptism is the mark of entry into God’s (New) Covenant family, but no guarantee of blessing:

**Matthew 28:18–19** - <sup>18</sup> *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*

B. Also, like circumcision, baptism is a matter of the heart.

1. Baptism calls the baptized to lifelong faith in the One who alone can cleanse them from their sin.

**1 Peter 1:18–19** - <sup>18</sup> *knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.*

2. Baptism calls the baptized to lifelong repentance.

**Romans 6:3–4** - <sup>3</sup> *Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*