

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

New LIFE Fellowship Announcements:

**LIFE GROUP → 6:30pm Thomas' Home
Wed. evening**

**Pass out Flyers? This week? Saturday?
Talk to Bowers, Yvette... ?**

**Passover In Christ: Friday April 3rd,
after sunset - either at Thomas' home
or another venue, we'll keep you
posted.**



**Let's Prepare Our Hearts to Worship
our HOLY and AWESOME GOD**

Let's Study Our Awesome God's Word →



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Circumcision & The Gospel

Today we are going to look at ...

How what Paul faced in his day...

his ministry challenges ... how similar things can be challenges for us today.

Back then Paul was facing the Ministry FAD of:

New Gentile Believers must be Circumcised and follow the Law of God through Moses (the Mosaic Law) as well as Trust in Jesus Christ in order to be truly Saved

Circumcision & The Gospel

Romans 4:1-15

⁹ Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was **ACCOUNTED** to Abraham for righteousness. ¹⁰ How then was it **ACCOUNTED**? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? **NOT** while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. ¹¹ And he received **the sign of circumcision**, a **seal** of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still **uncircumcised**, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be **IMPUTED** to them also, ¹² and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.

Circumcision & The Gospel

Romans 4:1-15

¹³ For the **PROMISE** that he would 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 those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, ¹⁵ because **THE LAW BRINGS ABOUT WRATH**; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

Circumcision & The Gospel

My focus today is on what “Circumcision” meant in Paul's day and how it impacted and/or presented challenges for ministry ... and how that translates in today's “church” world.

He faced ministry challenges of false doctrines **infiltrating** churches he planted. Some of those churches, which were planted by him, were quickly infiltrated by this **Radical Hebrew-Roots movement** ...

If a Gentile person wanted to follow Jesus Christ as his/her Savior and LORD, he/she was told “you must be converted to be a Jew, first, then follow Jesus Christ...” For men, this included rite of “Circumcision” (it was surgery, BTW).

Acts 15:1-29 addresses this issue “HEAD ON” ...

Circumcision & The Gospel

Paul faced those crazy sets of false doctrines HEAD ON...

They seemed to be nice and OK on the surface, but Paul exposed them.

He never backed down, nor did he compromise.

Did you know that some of the very churches he was used by God to plant, some of them later on became embarrassed to even be associated with Paul. Embarrassed... OH how fickle some folks can be! (e.g.: Corinth and Galatian churches)

Circumcision & The Gospel

Let's just hear Paul in his own words for a little bit here...

Galatians 1:6-10

(6) I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, (7) which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. (8) But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be ACCURSED. (9) As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be ACCURSED. (10) For do I now seek to persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still seek to please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. (compare: John 12:43: For they loved praise from men more than praise from God.)

Circumcision & The Gospel

Galatians 5:2-6,11:

Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. (3) And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. (4) You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. (5) For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH. (6) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE. ...

(11) And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? THEN THE OFFENSE OF THE CROSS HAS CEASED.

Circumcision & The Gospel

Galatians 1:10 → For do I now seek to persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still seek to please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

Galatians 5:11 → if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the OFFENSE of the CROSS has ceased.

Paul Faced this Challenge HEAD ON ... DIDN'T Compromise at all, never, ever... Paul ONLY CARED ABOUT PLEASING GOD not humans

This is a LESSON for us to LEARN from ...

Circumcision & The Gospel



We are dealing with SACRED COWS → Exodus 32 ...

God was not Pleased with Israel's Sacred Cows ... He has not changed His mind still today ... God hates Sacred Cows ...

“Circumcision” became a Sacred Cow during Paul's day ...

What are some of them that we face today (re: the Gospel, etc.)?

Circumcision & The Gospel

FADs... that Compromise the Gospel:

- 1. Easy Believism Gospel → Just “believe” in Jesus, say these words after me. (but no mention of Sin, God’s Judgment or His Wrath, etc. only His Love, etc.)
[ref: Luke 14:25-35]**

Circumcision & The Gospel

FADs... that Compromise the Gospel:

- 2. Seeker Sensitive, Seeker Oriented ... I am not sure how long I need to go on about that one... Willow Creek and Saddleback (Rick Warren), etc... I understand, we need to be sensitive to those whom God is working in... I don't want to put out the wick that is barely burning (Isaiah 42:3 --> "He (the future Messiah) will not break a bruised reed, and He will not put out a smoldering wick...") But, what this has meant is the compromising of the Gospel, making sure we don't mention certain hard truths of God's Word, lest we "scare" sinners away.**

Circumcision & The Gospel

FADs... that Compromise the Gospel:

- 3. The Prosperity Gospel ... "name it, and claim it" ... you must give God the money, through this specific "Preacher" and you will get more than you put in, in some form ... unless you don't have enough faith, etc. And, you have to keep on giving or something bad might happen.**

Circumcision & The Gospel

FADs... that Compromise the Gospel:

- 4. The “Healing Gospel” ... anytime I ask God for any kind of healing God is obligated to heal me, no matter what. And if I don't “receive” my healing from God, it is because I don't have enough faith and/or I haven't given enough money to that specific “faith healer”, etc.**

Circumcision & The Gospel

FADs... that Compromise the Gospel:

- 5. The WORKS Gospel ... you must Trust in Jesus for your Salvation... but in order to keep it, you must do certain religious, ritual works, and/or you must give a tithe or above, and/or you must be a member of a particular "brand" of church, and/or ... "fill in the blank" ... The Roman Catholic Church is high up there in this... but there are many other so-called churches that do this kind of thing in various ways that might see OK on the surface, but undermine the very Grace of God (see Ephesians 2:8-9)**

Circumcision & The Gospel

This is why Paul focusses so much on this in the New Testament (from Romans through 2 Timothy)

- 1. We “think” we have a “need” in our fallen, sinful, selfish, self-centered old nature, to justify ourselves, our behaviors, our attitudes, our decision and our actions.**
- 2. It is easier for us, to hide behind religious rituals, or anything "religious" instead of facing our SIN upon Jesus Christ on the Cross when He was crucified. Facing this, is offensive to us, and we want to fight against it, as fallen sinners.**

Circumcision & The Gospel

THE GOSPEL → it Offends us.

The Gospel declares that our feeble “religious” efforts, which are selfishly motivated, to “do good” and to “make up” for our sins → have and will always fail, we always fall short ...

**Romans 3:23: for we all have sinned and fall short of the
Glory of God.**

Paul is hitting hard, so that we don't REST IN anything else or become “Spiritually Comfortable” in anything other than JESUS CHRIST Himself

Circumcision & The Gospel

THE GOSPEL →

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (the Gospel that the apostle Paul preached):
Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the GOSPEL which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, (2) by which also you are SAVED, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. (3) For I delivered to you FIRST of all that which I also received: that Christ DIED for our SINS according to the Scriptures, (4) and that He was buried, and that He ROSE again the third day according to the Scriptures**

Circumcision & The Gospel

THE GOSPEL → it Offends us.

Paul nails the last doors shut on our seeking to Justify ourselves by anything... We are SINNERS ... with no wiggle room to Justify ourselves...

What about Abraham or David or Circumcision ...?

Paul strips us of anything and everything except JESUS CHRIST ... His PERSON and HIS WORKS are all we have left. The Ministry FADs of Paul's DAY ... just MORPHED ... and we are dealing with them but in different shapes today...

Circumcision & The Gospel

THE GOSPEL → it Offends us.

Today, all of those Sacred Cows undermine Trust in CHRIST alone. They lead us to our Own Efforts OR into a Mixture of Trusting (kinda) in Christ AND in our own works

False Doctrines and Ministry Challenges we face come down to this... →

Am I justified by my own religious works along with Trusting in Jesus Christ (like what the Roman Catholic church teaches) ... OR ...

am I TRUSTING in some False Teaching or False Christ or something like that → it looks Christian, but really isn't

Circumcision & The Gospel

Paul nailed that last door shut, the last vestige of our trying to justify ourselves. All we are left with is CHRIST Himself ... Christ and what He did for us ... HE IS ENOUGH ...

HE is the ONLY OPEN DOOR to God... He is THE WAY, THE TRUTH and the LIFE ... the ONLY way to God the Father (John 14:6)

It is not enough to know this in our head (to just acknowledge the Truth of this) ... we MUST, personally, truthfully, and humbly TRUST in GOD and what He's Done for us in Christ JESUS, ALONE for our Eternal Salvation, for our Forever Forgiveness ...

If you have not TRUSTED IN HIM today, please don't let another moment go by, you are not guaranteed another breath or another heartbeat. . . . REPENT and TRUST Him Today...

Circumcision & The Gospel

God is GOOD ... He is Trustworthy and Faithful...

**Next Week, we will seek to finish up the rest of
Romans 4...**

**Let's go out with Praise and Thanksgiving in our
Hearts Today**

See y'all Next Time we Gather...

@ LIFE Group and/or Here Next Week



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