

## **The Real Circumcision**

### **Romans 2: 28 & 29**

**In the early days of the Church; the Holy Spirit was leading believers in spectacular victories. Many were saved; many were healed; and many were delivered of evil spirits. But not everyone likes good news; and we do have an adversary. 1 Peter 5: 8 & 9 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.**

**And resisting stedfastly in the faith meant enduring ten periods of persecution in the first 400 years. The Church not only held their own, but actually grew and prospered. And many earned a martyr's crown.**

**Revelation 12: 11 - And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

**Persecutions were not only back then; there are many of them to-day.**

**Mozambique: The Cross and The Crown by Ellie Hein; tells of what missionaries encountered in Africa in the 1980s.**

**And to-day; it goes on in Zimbabwe and Nigeria. So when the devil couldn't conquer the Church from the outside; he changed his tactics. The leaders; such as Peter, Paul, and John warned the believers to be on their guard.**

**Acts 20: 29 to 31 - For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.**

**2 Peter 2: 1 & 2 - But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.**

**2 John 1: 7 - For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver & antichrist.**

**In fact, it didn't take the devil too long in starting his counter-operation.**

**Acts 16: 16 to 24 - And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, And brought them to the**

**magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them . And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.**

**Even though he was thrown in jail, Paul did the right thing in challenging the demon. We don't need the help of familiar spirits in the Lord Jesus' Service. Another of the adversary's tactics was to have a damage control team going around after Paul to de-bunk the Gospel. Acts 15: 1 to 5 - And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said , Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. When therefore Paul & Barnabas had no small dissension & disputation with them, they determined that Paul & Barnabas, & certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles & elders about this question. And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, & they declared all things that God had done with them. But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, & to command them to keep the law of Moses.**

**Why is it so hard for some to grasp the concept of God's Grace, and choose to remain bound by legalism? John 1: 17 - For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

**Romans 2: 28 & 29 - For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 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.**

**They were trying to add something to the Shed Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ to obtain our salvation. And when you add anything, no matter how religious, to Our Lord's Blood; you are going from salvation by grace, to salvation by works; which is self-redemption. I prefer God's Way.**

**Ephesians 2: 8 & 9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

**So how did circumcision come about? Genesis 17: 1 to 14 - And when Abram was 90 years old and 9, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me & thee, & will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father**

**of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, & I will make nations of thee, & kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me & thee & thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. And he that is 8 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. He that is born in thy house, & he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: & my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 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.**

**It was to be a sign; that the True and Living God, would be their God; and that He would give them all that land for an inheritance. It showed that they were a different or holy people; and to be perfect, as God was.**

**Leviticus 20: 7 - Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.**

**Deuteronomy 18: 13 - Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.**

**Now that we are under the New Covenant; are matters any different?**

**2 Corinthians 13:11 - Finally brethren farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of 1 mind, live in peace; & the God of love & peace shall be with you.**

**1 Peter 1: 13-16 - Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober & hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.**

**With such a good beginning; how long did it last? Within a few generations, it got so bad that God sent them into Egypt for refining. After 400 years of processing, Our Lord led them out with a mighty hand. Deuteronomy 4: 34,35 - Or hath God assayed to go & take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, & by wonders, & by war, & by a mighty hand, & by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.**

**Our Lord told them again what He expected of them. Deuteronomy 6: 4 to 16 - Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And**

**these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things , which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth. Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.**

**How much easier can it get? We are to love the LORD Our God with all our heart, & all our soul, & all our might. Our Lord is not interested in shallow religiosity, with its games and rituals. He demands a deeper commitment; a closer walk; with all our heart, and with all our soul, and all our might. Matthew 10: 37 - He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.**

**It starts in our heart; the centre of our being. And then in our souls; especially in our minds. Romans 10: 10 - For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

**But before we can believe in our hearts; God's Holy Spirit has to work on us. Ezekiel 36: 26 - A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.**

**Mount Carmel was a scene of a major example of this. 1 Kings 18: 30-39 - And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also**

with water. And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, & licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: & they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

These people turned back with their hearts. What happens when they don't? Ezekiel 14: 1 to 11 - Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me. And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, & I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel. And they shall bear the punishment of their iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of him that seeketh unto him; That the house of Israel may go no more astray from me, neither be polluted any more with all their transgressions; but that they may be my people, and I may be their God, saith the Lord GOD.

The hidden idols in the heart have always caused trouble; and need to be dealt with if we are going to be used of the Lord.

So how does this fit with the sign of the Old Covenant? Then it was circumcision of the flesh for men. Now, it is not required for salvation. But even back then, Our Lord was showing them the better way; for both men and women. Deuteronomy 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.**

**Romans 2: 28 & 29 - For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 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.**

**And with the circumcision of the heart; or the turning of the heart; Our Lord reveals Himself, and puts the Fear of the Lord on them.**

**Isaiah 6: 1 to 8 - In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: & he laid it upon my mouth, & said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; & thine iniquity is taken away, & thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, & who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.**

**Revelation 4: 1 to 7 - After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.**

**Now what would happen if someone had only an encounter with God.**

**Daniel 3: 28-30 - Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, & said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego, who hath sent his angel, & delivered his servants that trusted in him, & have changed the king's word, & yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, but their own God.**

**Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, & their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego, in the province of Babylon.**

**The king had many examples of God's Power, but he never renounced his gods. Revelation 6: 12 to 17 - And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**

**The people will have the Fear of the Lord on them; but they still refuse to repent. 2 Kings 17: 24 to 41 - And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof. And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them. Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land. Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land. Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD. Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt. And the men of Babylon made Succothbenoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima, And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places. They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence. Unto**

**this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel; With whom the LORD had made a covenant, and charged them, saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them: But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice. And the statutes, and the ordinances, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other gods. And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods. But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies. Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after their former manner. So these nations feared the LORD, & served their graven images, both their children, & their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.**

**Isn't that like to-day; they fear the Lord, but because their heart has not been turned back to Our Lord; they continue to serve their gods. And this is not something new; it has been around for a long time. Genesis 6: 5 - And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

**God has been challenging people for a long time. Deuteronomy 10: 16 - Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, & be no more stiffnecked.**

**Acts 7: 51 to 53 - Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did , so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it .**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ has shed His Blood for us; and He does want us to succeed. James 4: 6 to 10 - But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; & purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, & mourn, & weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, & he shall lift you up.**

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