

Romans 2:28-29 – The True Jew

Gaebelein, Reinecker, TSK, GreekLexicon, Gill, Family, Geneva, Trapp, Vincent, Robertson, PNT, Henry, Lightfoot, Koning, JFB, Godet, Calvin, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **Those of us who come from other countries know that being Canadian is more than having a Canadian passport.**

You start believing in Canada.

You starting doing things Canadian do.

You root for Canadians at the Olympics.

You drink excessive coffee.

You enjoy maple syrup.

You are sad when the Blue Jays make an early exit from the playoffs.

You may even watch hockey and send your children to lose a few teeth playing it.

And of course, you learn to say “eh.”

Similarly, you learn that being a Christian is much more than being baptized and joining the church. You have to be a full Christian, not just someone who was marked as a Christian. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are:

Who is not a True Jew

Who is a true Jew

Our goals are: **That you will rejoice you have been made a true Jew by Christ circumcising your heart, giving you a new name, a new record, and a new life, and that you will work for the circumcising of the hearts of those with uncircumcised hearts.**

Who is not a True Jew

28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;

1. The Jews claimed to be Jews by virtue of their name, nature, nation, religion, and profession!

a. Name – they had Jewish names. If you hear “Nwachukwu,” you don’t think “Chinese.” Jewish names often ended with “iah,” the short for of Yahweh. Obadiah. Jeremiah. Josiah.

b. Nature – they were children of Abraham who was a relative of “Heber,” the short form for Hebrews. They were circumcised to prove they were the ones in covenant with Yahweh.

John 8:39 They answered and said to Him, "**Abraham is our father.**"

c. Nation – Israel. If passports were available, they would have said: **Constitutional Republic of Israel.**

d. Religion – Judaism. They kept those feast days...and made those sacrifices, sometimes diligently.

e. Profession – they claimed to be Jews. They might have painted that on their houses so people could identify them.

2. But Apostle Paul said they were not all real Jews who were Jews simply by their name, nature, nation, religion, and profession!

It seemed like Apostle Paul had some nerve to speak like that because that was the Jewish standard!

3. Why were they not all true Jews?

Apostle Paul wanted them to know **real Jews were not ones who was circumcised in the flesh, but ones who was circumcised in the heart.**...having their carnality removed!

Circumcision only left a mark on their bodies but it made no mark on their souls.

4. Looking to the very beginning, God made it clear Jews were not Jews by being in the covenant but by keeping the covenant, or better, having a Covenant Keeper keep it for them.

Genesis 17: 7 "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. 8 "Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." 9 And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.

John 8:39 ...Jesus said to them, **"If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.**

5. Lessons:

a. God commanded you to take the covenant sign upon you and your children.
This marking is significant because **God knows you need the reassurance of his**

promises. *If you don't use it for the intended purpose, God describes you as "despising the riches of his goodness."*

That's what baptism is!

b. But your baptism (like circumcision) doesn't count for much if it were merely an outward baptism (like circumcision).

This is how you must understand it now that baptism has replaced circumcision.

c. This means you must take the time to consider the seriousness of your baptism.

Reflect on its real purpose, the washing away of your sins through the blood of the cross.

Without the real purpose in mind, your baptism only got you wet...and will bring God's flood of wrath!

d. Pretense in public and in the heart will be exposed as on a billboard before the Lord. All those who claim to be Christians but aren't, will be publicly displayed and shamed.

The quote is: **The proof is in the eating of the pudding!** Looking good or saying good isn't enough.

This leads to our next point:

Who is a True Jew

29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that **of the heart, in the Spirit,** not in the letter; **whose praise is not from men but from God.**

1. Apostle Paul declared the true Jew was one who was circumcised in the heart, not merely in his body!

They Jews were hung-up on the fact they were circumcised by the letter...it was all in the flesh...but they were wrong.

(Keep in mind the symbol was still required...only that it was useless without faith!)

2. What did Apostle Paul mean by saying the Jew had to be circumcised "of the heart, in the Spirit?"

a. True circumcision is of the heart is and done by the Holy Spirit. This is a

supernatural work that only God can do. It requires the recipient submit in humility to God, acknowledging his neediness.

b. True circumcision is the removal of the sin and the imparting of grace.

Having the letter of the law (circumcision) wasn't enough; man needed the "spirit" of the law...a change of heart!

3. This demand for circumcision of the heart was God's call all along.

Deuteronomy 10:16 "Therefore **circumcise the foreskin of your heart**, and be stiff-necked no longer.

Deuteronomy 30:6 "And the LORD your **God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Jeremiah 4:4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, **And take away the foreskins of your hearts**, You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings."

Dispensationalists don't know what they are talking about when they declare that people were saved in a different way in the Old Testament times.

4. Note, Apostle Paul wasn't saying outward circumcision was wrong or should be avoided; far from it!

He insisted on the covenant sign! He knew those without the sign in the Old Testament were excommunicated.

But he didn't want them to think circumcised Jews automatically became true Jews.

5. The one who confessed Christ's name and was circumcised in the heart was the true Jew.

A very ancient commentator wrote: "...he that believes not as he should, circumcision does not make him a Jew; and he that believes as he ought, he indeed is a Jew, though he is not circumcised."

Ezekiel 44:9 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "**No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart or uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter My sanctuary**, including any foreigner who is among the children of Israel.

This implies that *every foreigner who is circumcised in the heart shall enter the sanctuary of God!*

In fact, Jesus made it clear that more will be the children of the barren woman (Gentiles) than children of the married woman (the Jews).

Matthew 8:11 "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. **12 "But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."**

6. The one who is truly circumcised (in the heart) will be praised by God; he is the true Jew.

There is a hint of something interesting here: *Jews came from Judah...which meant Praise.* V6b.

Genesis 49:8 "Judah, **you are he whom your brothers shall praise;** Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you.

7. Lessons:

a. Don't think the Jews in Israel today are special because they have Abraham's blood in their veins.

(And in fact, many of them are not real descendants of Abraham, as some studies show.)

The real children of Abraham have the blood of Christ in them and on them.

b. God wants you to have a godly repentance for sins and embrace Christ's work on the cross as the means of accomplishing that!

Only that will clean out your heart. That is the circumcision of the flesh.

Colossians 2:11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, **by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh,** by the circumcision of Christ,

c. The ones who are circumcised in the heart will show it, not in vain boasting, but in service and worship of the Covenant Keeper and pursuing godly works.

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

Read James again to remind yourself of those duties. This is a good reminder to Christina today!

d. God judges the heart and will reward its sincerity. Make sure your heart is right with him.

Conclusion:

The true Jew is not one who has a Jewish name, having **Abraham's blood** flowing through him, **from Israel, followed Judaism,** or **claims to be Jewish.**

The **true Jew is one whose heart has been circumcised,** meaning his sins have been removed by the circumcision of Christ on the cross – and he has received that by faith.

(Christ's death is your circumcision of the heart!) The saved are then lives are as renewed man!

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus:

1. Rejoice you have been made forever right with God through Jesus Christ

(justification) and have been marked by him as a true Jew!

2. Ask God to help you to not trust in your baptism for salvation, but to keep trusting in the one who marked you by baptism.

Ask God to make your children trust in him and grab hold of the promises made at their baptism.

Ask God to help those adults who have been baptized to live their baptism...showing they have been changed – washed in the blood of the Lamb.

Ask God to teach you not to be craving for human honor but to crave for God's honor, knowing that only God's honor has any lasting value in the end.

3. Tell others so they can find their way to God, have their hearts circumcised, and then live to please him.

Finally: You should be baptized. Are you? If you are not, **ask God to make you his child and mark you** by his covenant sign.

He **promised his blessing to all who call on him** because **Jesus died on the cross and made salvation available** to all kinds of people, **regardless of how much they have sinned in their lives.**