

Luke 2:21 The Circumcision of Christ

Jesus brings you new life in relation to God, rescuing you from your fallen condition and bringing God's blessing to you through His humiliation.

- 1) What is circumcision?
 - a) A sign of the covenant of grace (Gen. 17; Rom. 4:11)
 - i) A sign of the rolling away of the contamination of sin from the people (Joshua 5:9)
 - ii) A sign of regeneration/new heart (Deut. 10:16; 30:6)
 - iii) A sign of God's promise of a Seed who would bless the families/nations of the earth (Gen. 17; 22:18)
 - b) A seal of the righteousness of faith (Rom. 4:11)
 - i) The LORD's brand or seal indicating His ownership. That one belongs to God and to the people of God (Gen. 17)
 - ii) A bloody seal (Exodus 4:24-26)
- 2) What does circumcision have to do with Jesus' name?
 - a) Luke does not expound either on the significance of circumcision, or on the significance of Jesus' name, not because they are insignificant, but because the history *is* the theology, not just an illustration of theological truths.
 - b) Naming is usually done at birth; but Abram's name was changed to Abraham in conjunction with his circumcision, indicating the covenantal significance of Abraham's new name. Since Jesus' naming is done in conjunction with the circumcision, we are led to ask what the naming and the circumcising have to do with each other.
 - i) Jesus means "The LORD Saves"
 - ii) As the LORD Who Saves, Jesus identifies with sinners in His circumcision, in order to save His people from their sins (cf. Matt. 1:21).
 - iii) As the LORD Who Saves, Jesus is the promised Seed who would bless all nations of the earth (cf. Gal. 3:16).
- 3) What does Jesus' circumcision have to do with me?
 - a) Our baptism unites us with Christ to partake of the Spiritual benefits signified and sealed in His circumcision (Colossians 2:11-12).
 - b) "For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh." (Philippians 3:3)
 - (1) Implies both original and actual sins
 - (2) Do you recognize your need of forgiveness and regeneration?
 - (3) Do you desire God's promised blessing for yourself?
 - (4) Are you trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins and the blessed life of knowing and enjoying God?