

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

The Book of Romans Lesson 8 circumcision of what

Chapter 2:17-29

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Verse 17. *Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,* The Holy Spirit is implying that one might be called a Jew and yet not be a Jew. One might call themselves a Christian and not be a true Christian. Christian in name only, to be a true Christian one must be Christ-like. In these passages the Holy Spirit is pointing out that the Jew here is nothing more than a helpless sinner as the Gentile, in spite of all the Jewish boasting. They rest in the law, but at the same time they do not recognize the Law as an instruction in righteousness.

Verse 18. *And knowest his will,* It is one thing to know the law, but an entirely different to do what you know. Many a so-called Christians can quote James 4:17 and yet they continue in their sin. The lawyer in Luke 10:28-29 knew the Law; he just did not want to keep it if he did not have too. The Jews knew the Scriptures and what God expected them to do. The scribes and the Pharisees had so finely altered the teaching of the Law to suit themselves that they came under the scrutiny of the Lord during His public ministry.

Verse 19. *And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,* The Jews supported different schools of religious learning, holding to teachers whose views on certain parts of the Law were different. They taught insignificant details at the expense of the weightier matters which affected the lives of the ordinary people. They could argue about the letter of the Law, but, the spirit of the Law was missing.

Verse 20. *An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.* What was illogical about the Jew's self-assurance was that for all his knowledge he was as guilty before God as the Gentiles. For the Pharisees and the Sadducees to position themselves as instructors and teachers of the people was disrespectful. The Lord on occasions had branded them as hypocrites. In Matthew 15:14 Jesus told His disciples that the Pharisees and the Sadducees were blind leaders of the blind.

Verse 21-23. *Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? 22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? 23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? 24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.* It is not to your advantage to have all this knowledge if it is not making any difference in your

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life. What is it doing? It is just increasing the depth of your condemnation. You would be better off knowing one thing and obeying, than knowing five hundred things and obeying one. The Jews had all of this knowledge from God that no one else had. But they did not want to practice what they knew; they would rather boast about being special. Christians and Bible teaching churches have all this light from God, but they do not want to walk in the light. In these passages the Bible reveals the hypocrisy of the pretender, who is hiding behind the mask of practical holiness. The Jews proudly took the position of being teachers of others, yet they did not apply the teaching to themselves. That is probably where the term “do as I teach not as I do” came from. The Bible continues its’ denouncement of the Jew by citing them passages from the Ten Commandments “doest thou steal”, “doest thou commit adultery”, “doest thou abhorrest idols”, “dost thou commit sacrilege”? These are the things they should have been teaching others and teaching themselves, see Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42; John 2:16; Malachi 3:8.

The Jews had several distinctive features which separated them from the Gentiles. The main one was their possession of the Law. Over generations they added to it and without a doubt had been guilty of breaking it. Regardless of knowingly breaking the Law’s requirements, they maintained their boasting that they were custodians of the Law, given to them by God. The failure of the Jew to conform his life to the requirements of the Law caused the Gentiles to blaspheme, not just the Jews but also God. This same situation proves true in our day, we have all met someone who wants nothing to do with God or the things of God, and when you ask them, they usually start the sentence with “I knew a Christian who” As ambassadors for the Lord, we have a responsibility to lead a clean life, so as not to push others away from God. I Corinthians 9:27; 1 Peter 2:15-16.

Verse 25. *For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.* Circumcision was another difference the Jew had from the Gentile. It was introduced when God made a covenant with Abraham and confirmed later in the Law with Moses. Genesis 17:10-12; Leviticus 12:3. Every Jewish male was to be circumcised on the eighth day. It did not take long before it became a mere formality. Deuteronomy 10:16; Jeremiah 4:4.

The Jew was proud to carry the name nationally, letting others know that the privileges that were given them were not shared with the Gentiles. Yet their life-style was no different than that of the Gentile, even though they had pledged to God to honor and obey His Laws Exodus 24:3. The scripture is implying that the Jew became a Gentile when the Law was ignored. The outward sign of circumcision was a rite that meant nothing.

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Verse 26. *Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?* The Holy Spirit is using these verses to reason with the impartial Jew. The Jews make their boast in being circumcised, but what if it were possible that the Gentile keep the righteousness of the law then would his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision. Looking from God's point of view, all are the same, for there is no respect of persons with God. Romans 2:11. In Acts 10:22 Cornelius was a Gentile an uncircumcised man, a sinful man. He was not saved but he feared God and worked righteousness and that was more than the circumcised did. He was saved later by putting his faith and trust in the only one who can save... Jesus Christ. In Acts 10:34 the Bible reminds us that God is no respecter of persons everyone comes to God the same way, through Jesus Christ.

Verse 27. *And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?* This verse is a contrast of Uncircumcision and circumcision as representing the two classes on Earth. He sees the uncircumcised, the Gentiles, those who do not bear the mark in their flesh of circumcision, fulfilling the righteous requirements of the Law. They would become a judgment to the circumcised Jew who had the written Law and did not fulfill its requirements. The Jew who had the privileges and the greater light would be condemned by the Gentile who had none.

Let us bring this to our time, we have the KJV Bible and we know the percepts of God, but our marriages are a mess our children despise us, we are a lousy witness for the Lord. Here is a guy across town, he attends a different church than the one you attend, and he reads out of a different Bible than you read, and he loves the Lord. His wife and children love him, and he is a great witness for the Lord, and yet we look down our nose at him, How are we different from the circumcised Jew? The Jews used their circumcision similar as a bond of salvation, or a free ticket to favor with God.

Verse 28-29. *For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 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.* The Holy Spirit is using these verses to draw a conclusion. For he is not a Jew that is one outwardly, neither is circumcision of any value which is outward in the flesh. This statement should not as come to a surprise to the Jew. Moses made it perfectly clear to the children of Israel that God looked for something more than mere conformity. Deuteronomy 10:12-16. Later when God told the Children of Israel what The LORD was going to do for them when He brought them into the land of promise; Deuteronomy 30:6. And later still, in the history of the nation,

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Jeremiah charged them saying: Jeremiah 4:4. Why didn't they understand? They refused to carry out His commands implicitly; they picked, chose and reinterpreted the teachings of God to match their comfort level. Similar to the modern day Christian; The Bible says thou shalt not steal, but if the cashier gives us too much change, we say, God blessed us with extra money. The Bible says thou shalt not commit adultery, but if we stare at a woman who is wearing clothes that do not cover her body, we make the excuse, I can look, that's natural. I am a Christian, God has already forgiven me. The Jew who prided himself in the name, and who considered being born a Jew gave him favor with Heaven, was grossly mistaken. Externals such as circumcision, titles and signs will be meaningless in the day of reckoning. Even Paul with his grand list of accomplishments said:

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, Philippians 3:8. We have a KJV Bible, we have been baptized, we read our Bible, go to the right church and witness every Saturday night, all this is great. But if you are using all that as your security to be in favor with God, you are no better than the Jew with his circumcision.

Notes

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Name _____

1. What did you learn from this lesson?
2. Why did the Jews feel like they were special in God's eyes?
3. What were some of the ways the Pharisees displayed there superiority to the common people? (not in lesson)
4. In God's eyes when are the Jews and the Gentiles on even ground?
5. What responsibility does a Christian have?
6. How can a Jew not be a Jew?
7. How can a Christian not be a Christian?
8. Why did Jesus call the Pharisee and the Sadducees hypocrites?
9. Explain what the carnal Christian and the proud Jew have in common?
10. What is the definition of a Christian?
11. Explain the story of the Lawyer as it relates to this lesson?

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12. Why is it so important for a Christian to live a clean life?
13. Why did God give the Jews the rite of circumcision?
14. How many times in the Bible did God explain to the Children of Israel what circumcision was? (list chapter and verse)
15. When does a Jew become a Gentile?
16. Why would a Gentile judge a Jew?
17. How do these types of people get to Heaven?
 - a. Jews in the Old Testament
 - b. Gentiles in the Old Testament
 - c. Jews in the New Testament
 - d. Gentiles in the New Testament

True/false

- A Jew goes to Heaven by keeping the Law.
- Knowing a lot of the Bible will place you in God's favor.
- You can use an NIV and be right with God.



Scripture memorization, write out these verses on the back on this page:
(must be in KJV) 1 Corinthians 9:27; 1 Peter 2:15-16

Any Questions?