

## The New Testament Fulfillment of the Old Testament Symbol of Circumcision

- **An Important Reminder**

*Circumcision symbolizes Abraham's covenant relationship with God after he had already been declared righteous because of His faith. Circumcision emphasized the need for covenant from Israel and indicated the presence of a Hebrew race which was separate from those outside God's covenant community.*

- **Circumcision's "Consummating Reality" with the Coming of Christ**

1. Jesus was circumcised as part of fulfilling God's law for us as our Saviour (Luke 2:21, Galatians 4:4).
2. With the coming of Christ and the New Covenant, the emphasis of circumcision was not required of Jews or Gentiles who were circumcised and made new covenants through oneness with Christ by means of faith alone (Acts 10:39-45, 15:1 and 8-9).
3. Those who accepted circumcision as necessary for salvation had no salvation in Christ (Galatians 5:2).

- **An Important Clarifying Remark by Robertson**

*"Circumcision has significance not as an external rite, but as a symbolic representation of the reality of righteousness. Cleansing from impurity and the incorporation into the covenant community remain significant for the Christian."*

- **Three Lessons from Romans 2:25-29**

1. The circumcision symbol of the old covenant has no value without unless it is joined by the reality of faith (verse 25).
2. The man who experiences the essence of righteousness through the New Covenant will be regarded as "circumcised" though he actually never has experienced the reality of circumcision (verses 26-27).
3. Only the true circumcision of the heart by the Spirit accomplishes the covenant which makes a man a child to God.

- **One More Concluding Text**

Philippians 3:3 teaches that the one who w\_\_\_\_\_ in the S\_\_\_\_\_ of G\_\_\_\_\_ and g\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, and not in himself, has truly been c\_\_\_\_\_ and s\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_. “For we are the r\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_.”

- **Next Week**

*We will consider Colossians 2:7-15 (especially 12-14) in light of what the above New Testament passages have already taught us.*