

**Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone**  
**“Are We Jews Any Better Off? No, Not At All”**  
**Romans 4:9-13**

*In Paul’s day all of humanity was be described as “Jew and Gentile”. Another way to say the same thing more exclusively, would be “circumcised and uncircumcised”. Ethnic Israel felt their physical lineage coupled with obedience to the rite of circumcision was sufficient to insure a right relationship with YHWH. Paul in his inspired writings, makes it clear that righteousness comes by faith alone. He goes even further to make it clear that not all circumcised, physical decedents of Abraham are saved. The true decedents of Abraham are not connected to him physically but spiritually by faith. There is ethnic Israel and there is spiritual Israel. Much confusion here. Christ is the true, sinless remnant. To be saved you must be in Christ, in the same way Abraham was saved.*

Galatians 5:11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the **offense of the cross has been removed.**

Galatians 5:12 I wish those who unsettle you would **emasculate themselves!**

Acts 15:1 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, **“Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”**

Acts 15:2 And after Paul and Barnabas had **no small dissension and debate with them**, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders **about this question.**

Acts 15:4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

Acts 15:5 But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, **“It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”**

Acts 15:6 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to **consider this matter.**

Acts 15:7 And after there had been **much debate**, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by **my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.**

Acts 15:8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us,

Acts 15:9 and **he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.**

Acts 15:10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?

Acts 15:11 But **we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”**

Acts 15:12 And all the assembly fell silent, and **they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.**

Acts 15:13 After they finished speaking, **James** replied, “**Brothers, listen to me.**

Acts 15:14 Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, **to take from them a people for his name.**

Acts 15:15 And **with this the words of the prophets agree**, just as it is written,

Acts 15:16 ““After this **I will return**, and **I will rebuild** the tent of David that has fallen; **I will rebuild** its ruins, and **I will restore** it,

Acts 15:17 that the **remnant of mankind may seek the Lord**, and **all the Gentiles who are called by my name**, says the Lord, who makes these things

Acts 15:18 known from of old.’

Acts 15:19 Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God,

Romans 2:11 For **God shows no partiality.**

Romans 2:28 For **no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical.**

Romans 2:29 But a **Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit,** not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Romans 3:9 What then? **Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all.** For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,

Deuteronomy 30:6 And the **LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring,** so that **you will 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; remove the foreskin of your hearts,** O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; **lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds.”**

Jeremiah 9:25 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, **when I will punish all those who are circumcised merely in the flesh—**

Romans 3:22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. **For there is no distinction:**

Romans 3:28 For we hold that one is **justified by faith apart from works of the law.**

Romans 4:1 What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather **according to the flesh?**

Romans 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, **but not before God.**

Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? “**Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”**

Romans 4:4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.

Romans 4:5 And to the one who **does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,**

Romans 4:6 just as David also speaks of the **blessing** of the one to whom God **counts righteousness apart from works:**

Romans 4:7 “**Blessed** are those whose **lawless deeds are forgiven**, and whose **sins are covered;**

Romans 4:8 **blessed** is the man against whom the Lord **will not count his sin.”**

Romans 4:9 Is this **blessing** then **only for the circumcised**, or also for the **uncircumcised**? For we say that **faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.**

Romans 4:10 How then was it counted to him? **Was it before or after he had been circumcised?** It was not after, but **before he was circumcised.**

Genesis 15:5 And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Genesis 15:6 And **he believed the LORD**, and **he counted it to him as righteousness.**

Genesis 16:16 **Abram was eighty-six years old** when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Genesis 17:1 When **Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram** and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,

Genesis 17:2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”

Genesis 17:9 And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.

Genesis 17:10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: **Every male among you shall be circumcised.**

Genesis 17:11 **You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.**

Genesis 17:14 Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin **shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.**”

Romans 4:11 He received the **sign** of circumcision as a seal of the **righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised**. The purpose was to make him the father of all who **believe without being circumcised**, so that **righteousness would be counted to them as well**,

Romans 4:12 and to make him **the father of the circumcised *who are not merely circumcised*** but who **also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised**.

Romans 4:13 For the **promise** to Abraham and **his offspring** that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but **through the righteousness of faith**.

Isaiah 10:22 For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, **only a remnant of them will return**. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness.

Romans 9:6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. **For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel**,

Romans 9:7 and **not all are children of Abraham** because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

Romans 9:8 This means that it is not **the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring**.

Galatians 3:6 just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

Galatians 3:7 Know then that it is **those of faith who are the sons of Abraham**.

Galatians 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”

Galatians 3:9 So then, **those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith**.

Galatians 6:15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, **but a new creation.**

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

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

Colossians 3:11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; **but Christ is all, and in all.**

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, **for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**