

God's Law in Our Heart – Not on the Wall!

Romans, Chapter 3

1 What, then is the prerogative of the Believer (Judean – “Jew”), or what is the benefit of circumcision?

The first mention of circumcision in the Bible is in Genesis 17:10 where God tells Abraham that Sarah will bear him a son - Isaac. The act of circumcision was to represent Abraham's faith in God, that God would keep His promise. It was a “cutting off of the flesh” that symbolized Abraham's belief in God rather than a belief in his own “flesh.”

The physical act of circumcision represented the spiritual act of “believing” – Abraham became a “Believer.” Abraham's circumcision did not symbolize his being – or becoming – a “Jew”, it symbolized Abraham's becoming a “Believer” in God and His promises.

Abraham was NOT a “Jew”, he was a Babylonian living in the pagan country of Canaan.

In the New Testament, the people living in Judea were “Believers” in the true God. Because of that, they were circumcised. They were NOT circumcised because they were “Jews”, they were circumcised because they were “Believers” in God.

Circumcision, according to God (who was the One who instituted circumcision), **symbolizes that one is a “Believer”, NOT that one is a “Jew!”**

Unfortunately, the “Jews” and the rest of the world, including most Christians, can only understand biblical concepts through “sense” knowledge, rather than through “revelation” knowledge. They can only understand physical things, knowledge they gain through their five senses, but they cannot understand Spiritual things, such as circumcision.

2 Much in every manner. For first, indeed, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God

God entrusted His Word, His oracles, to the Israelites of old, with His instructions to take His message to the world. Instead, filled with pride, the Israelites preferred to think of themselves as God's favorites, His "chosen", His pets, and instead of sharing the Good News about God with the rest of the nations, they kept God's oracles to themselves, and looked down on everyone else as inferior.

This is the same attitude that prevails today in the Talmud, the Jews' holiest book, and among many present-day "Jews."

3 For what if some disbelieve? Will not their unbelief nullify the faithfulness of God?

4 God forbid; now let God be true, yet every man a liar,

God is **always** faithful. He keeps **ALL** of His promises, including the promise of Salvation for ALL. "**God is the SAVIOUR of ALL mankind.**" 1 Timothy 4:10

even as it is written:

"That so Thou should be justified in Thy sayings, and shall be conquering when Thou art being judged."

God **WILL** be judged by the universe. He welcomes that. After all is done, after God has turned everyone back to Him, God will be justified. Everyone in the universe will agree that His ways have been right.

5 But if our unrighteousness commends the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man)

God's wrath is defined in Romans, Chapter 1, NOT as punishment, but as allowing us to reap what we have sown. In that way, we learn that our ways are wrong, and God's ways are right.

Our unrighteousness does indeed commend the righteousness of God because even though humanity is filled with sin, God, eventually **will win everyone** back to Himself and make them all perfect.

6 God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

The Bible defines "**Judgment**" as a "turning back to the right way" – to righteousness – right-doing.

“When Thy **judgments** are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn **righteousness (right-doing)**. Isaiah 26:9

“But **judgment** shall return (turn back) unto **righteousness (right-doing)**. Psalm 94:15

7 For if the truth of God superabounds in my lie, for His glory, why am I also still being judged as a sinner?

8 and why not say, (as we are slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come of it? Whose judgment is fair.

When Universal Restoration is discussed (the doctrine that God will save ALL - but NOT in their sins, only FROM their sins), Christians often respond, “Well, then I can sin all I want and still be saved.”

This response reveals a lack of understanding of the character of God. It also suggests that the one asking the question would much prefer to be out sinning, “having fun”, rather than being with the Lord.

When one fully understands Universal Restoration and how amazing God’s Plan of Salvation really is, that question would never come to mind. The knowledge of God’s character actually makes sin seem repulsive, one doesn’t want to do it anymore. That doesn’t mean that someone who believes in Universal Restoration no longer sins, but it DOES mean that they no longer WANT to sin. Sin does NOT seem attractive to him or her, as it once did.

9 What then? Are we better than they? Undoubtedly not, for we previously charge both Believers (Judeans – Jews) and Greeks (Unbelievers in God – believers in science and philosophy) to be all under sin,

God is NO respecter of persons. He does not love one group more than another. He does not love one skin color, or one race, or one gender, more than another.

10 According as it is written. There is NONE righteous, no, not one;

11 There is NONE that understand, there is NONE that seek after God

12 They are all gone out of the way, they have all together become unprofitable; there is NONE that doeth good, no, not one.

13 Their throat is like an open grave; with their tongues they speak deceit; the poison of asps is on their lips;

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways;

17 And the way of peace have they not known

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

“ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23 No one can claim that he or she is better than someone else.

19 Now we know that what things soever the law says, it says to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God

What does it mean to be “under the law”? If Christians are “under grace” and no longer “under the law”, does that mean they no longer need to KEEP the law?

Not at all!

On the contrary, if Christians keep the law because it’s a set of rules, laid down by God, as the means of getting to heaven, then they are “under the law.” But if they keep the law, because **Jesus has changed their heart** and they have **NO DESIRE** to break the law, then they are “under grace.”

They still **KEEP** the law, but now their motivation is different. Jesus has written the **LAW** in their hearts, so they keep it naturally, **NOT** because they feel they must in order to be saved.

The difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant is NOT the abolition of the Ten Commandments. The same Ten Commandments are still in effect, but the Christian DOES right because it IS right, not because he feels he has to.

The Old Covenant is the Ten Commandments written on stone. The New Covenant is the **same** Ten Commandments, but now, written in our heart.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a **New Covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

NOT according to the Covenant that I made with their Fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to **lead them out of the land of Egypt** (God is speaking of the Law, the Ten Commandments, written on stone, given to them at Mt Sinai), **because they continued NOT** in My Covenant (they were unable to keep the Ten Commandments when they were written on stone rather than in their heart) and **I disregarded them**, saith the Lord

For THIS is the Covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put My LAWS into their mind, and write them in their hearts**, and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people. . .

For all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest. Hebrews 8:8-11

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall not flesh be justified in His sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

We shall be judged by our actions. If our actions are in line with the law, then we are justified. The problem is, NO ONE can actually KEEP the law, unless Jesus has written the law in their heart. It cannot be kept by good intentions, by resolving to do so, or by trying to remove oneself from all temptation (as priests and nuns try to do in a monastery or nunnery).

The law written on stone tells us what is right and what is wrong. It gives us the “knowledge of sin.” But we ONLY have the ability to actually KEEP the law, if Jesus has “written the Law on our heart.”

21 But now the righteousness of God, apart from the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets:

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference

The righteousness of God, “apart from the law”, was exhibited in Jesus Christ because the “law was written in His heart.” The character of Jesus Christ was witnessed by the “law” because the “law” is a transcript of the character of Christ. Jesus was a walking, talking, example of the “law.”

The prophets also witnessed the righteousness of God in the character of Jesus Christ. They prophesied about His First coming and His Second coming, revealing that ONLY those who exemplified His same character, only the TRUE **believers** in Christ, would recognize Him – at either “coming.”

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8
(THEY shall understand God and recognize His character because they exhibit the same character.)

23 For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified without any cost by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

“Being justified” means to be made righteous. It is given to us as a gift. It costs us nothing.

“Whosoever will, let him take the water of life **freely.**” Revelation 22:17
That is, let him take it as a gift.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, **and he that hath no money;** come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk **without money and without price.** Isaiah 55:1

25 Whom God has set forth to be a mercy seat (propitiation) through faith in His blood, to demonstrate His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

A propitiation is a sacrifice.

What does it mean to have “faith in His blood”? The Greek word for “faith” is the very same word as that for “belief.” One must believe in Christ and His sacrifice on the cross, and what it authorized Him to do. Because, Jesus died on the cross, taking the penalty for the sin of the world, He now has the **authority** to come into EACH person’s life, **to change them into His image.**

He will **NOT** do this against their will. But He **does** know how to put the desire in each person’s heart to turn back to Him. The way He does it is with trouble! Lots of trouble! “I make peace and **I create evil (literal translation – disaster).**” Isaiah 45:7 When we make enough bad decisions, when we cause ourselves enough trouble and pain, when we create enough disasters for ourselves by those bad decisions, **then** we will realize that God’s way is the **ONLY** way, and we will be delighted to trust Him (believe that ALL His promises are sure) and allow Him to run our life.

This can occur either in this life, or after the Second Resurrection at the Judgment. The timing for each individual is up to God. **But God promises it WILL occur in everyone!**

26 To display His righteousness in the current era, for Him to be just and a Justifier of the one who is of the faith of Jesus.

We are to be witnesses to Jesus. This means we are to exhibit His character. He is just (righteous) and will justify all who have this faith (belief) of Jesus – the same faith that Jesus had in His Father, when He was here on earth. That is the kind of faith we **MUST** have! We must believe in **ALL** of God’s promises and rely **totally** on Him – for our health, for our life, for our finances – as our Father.

27 Where then, is the boasting? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

There is **NO** cause for boasting – because Jesus does it **ALL**. We do **NOT** “make the choice” for Christ. **ONLY** when God puts that desire in our heart can we come to Him. We cannot boast, because salvation is a **FREE** gift.

“No one can come to Me unless the Father draw Him.” John 6:44

If God puts that desire in **ANYONE’S** heart, eventually He will put that desire in **EVERYONE’S** heart, because “God is **NO** respecter of persons.”

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is declared righteous (justified) by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

You **CAN’T** get to heaven by **trying** to “do right.” It must come naturally. Jesus justifies us, makes us righteous, by putting **faith** (belief – trust) in our heart.

“God has dealt to **every man** a measure of faith (belief.)” Romans 12:3

29 Is He the God of the Believers (Jews – Judeans) only? Is He not also of the Unbelievers (Nations – Gentiles)? Yes, of the Unbelievers (nations) also,

God is the God of everyone, Believers and Unbelievers, because eventually He will **SAVE** everyone!

30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and the Uncircumcision through faith.

Faith – Belief – is the operating factor in both the “Believer” and eventually the “Unbeliever” who obviously will become a “Believer. God will make all things right.

“For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are ALL things: to whom be glory for ever (for the eons) Amen. Romans 11:36

31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; No, we are sustaining the law.

Paul recognized and anticipated that many followers of Christ would try to distort the Word of God, that is why he is so emphatic in this verse.

Virtually All the Christian denominations believe that when Jesus died on the cross, the LAW was done away with. “Now we are under grace, and we walk by faith, we are no longer under the law,” they say.

But they are dead wrong.

Paul says, “No. That is wrong. God forbid! **We are NOT doing away with the law, we are sustaining the law.**

The law still stands – but now, when Jesus rules our life, the LAW is in our HEART, instead of being on the wall, in stone!