

Sermon: “The Invisible Surgery With Lasting Results”

Text: Genesis 17:9-14 (pew Bible page 12)

I. A startling sermon:

Jeremiah 9:25-26 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will punish all who are circumcised only in the flesh— Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab and all who live in the wilderness in distant places. For all these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart.”

Genesis 15:6 “Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”

II. The sign of circumcision and its significance.

A. We know it was a sign of being justified by faith.

Romans 4:9-11 “We have been saying that Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness. Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.”

B. We know it was a sign of inclusion in God’s covenant community and distinguished it from the rest of the world.

Genesis 17:12-13 “Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised.”

C. We know it was an outward, physical sign given to represent an inward, spiritual reality.

Deuteronomy 10:1 “The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.”

Jeremiah 4: 3-4 “This is what the LORD says to the people of Judah and to Jerusalem: Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts, you people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem.”

Romans 2:28-29 “A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:6 “In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”

Galatians 6:15 “Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.”

D. We know God commanded the sign to be applied to believers and their children from infancy. Gen. 17:12

E. We know that literally everything the Old Testament says about circumcision as the sign and seal of salvation by faith alone, the New Testament says about baptism as the sign and seal of salvation by faith alone.

Acts 2:38-39 “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

III. A call to manifest the new life outwardly that God has created within us inwardly.

II Corinthians 13:5 “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.”