

Lesson 77 Answers and Comments

3	peace	gospel	not
beware	kissed	shine	righteousness
leaven	sin	not	God
Pharisees	us	ourselves	good
Beware	we	Christ	works
Scribes	righteousness	Jesus	should
Long	in	Lord	them
Clothing	him	bite	filled
Love	apostles	devour	knowledge
Adversaries	Christ	consumed	will
Enemies	satan	circumcision	wisdom
Cross	angel	prophesied	spiritual
Christ	light	thy	walk
Belly	ministers	name	pleasing
Mind	ministers	cast	fruitful
Earthly	righteousness	devils	every
Things	godliness	thy	good
Grace	power	name	work
God	gospel	wonderful	
Righteousness	hid	works	
Law	hid	never	
Christ	lost	knew	
Dead	god	you	
Vain	world	work	
Mercy	blinded	zeal	
Truth	minds	knowledge	
Together	not	own	
Righteousness	light	righteousness	

You and I as believers have free and open access to the Father in Christ. Eph. 2:18 “For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.” We also enjoy the riches of God’s grace, having been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ, Eph. 1:3. Is there something that we need to “do” in order to “attain” these things? Is God now going to test our metal to see if He can trust us with what He’s already given us in His Son?

Under grace the believer can have all confidence that Christ is all he will ever need to be acceptable to God. Only the doctrines of grace are compatible for the manner of life to be lived in light of the position the believer has in grace.

Beware of those who would cause you to live under a “social gospel”. Exchanging Christ and His crosswork for human works as the way to gain acceptance with God. Our “good works” come as a response of having been already accepted in Christ.

Rom. 5:8, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Lesson 78 Beware of the Concision

Phil. 3:2, "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision."

Last week we looked at the dogs and the evil workers in our verse. Now let's look at the concision.

I must admit, concision is not a word that I find myself using. It is only found once in scripture. Literally it means – cutting off. So it is referring to those who continued to adhere to physical circumcision as a means of acceptance with God.

We've see from some past lessons that these people, the concision, were a source of great persecution to Paul. Acts 15:1, "And certain men which came down from Judea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be _____ after the manner of Moses, ye _____ be _____."

What was all the tado about circumcision anyway?

We find circumcision first mentioned in Gen. 17:10, "...Every man Child among you shall be _____." If your not sure what this is ask mom or dad!

Why did God give this commandment?

Gen. 17:11, "And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin: and it shall be a _____ of the _____ betwixt me and you." Rom. 4:11 calls it a _____ or a _____ of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised:

Abraham believed God and his faith was counted for righteousness even though he was uncircumcised. God gave circumcision as a sign or seal of the covenant (promise) that He made to Abraham.

Gen. 17:1-9, vs. 4 Abraham would be the father of many _____.

Vs. 5 Abram's name would now be _____

Vs. 6 he would be exceedingly _____ and _____ would come from him

Vs. 7 this covenant would be _____

Vs. 8 Abraham would receive some _____ as an _____ possession

Circumcision differentiated all of Abraham's seed from all other peoples. It represented all that God had promised to Abraham. Circumcision was a token, sign, seal to the nation of Israel of the covenant that God made with Abraham. To not be circumcised, as a Jew, meant that you had contempt for God's covenant and thus you were _____ from God's people, Gen. 17:14.

Israel's history shows that her heart was characterized by hardness to God.

Is. 29:13, "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their _____, and with their _____ do honor me, but have _____ their _____ from me..."

Israel spent most of her past in rebellion to God, even tho she religiously practiced circumcision. They turned the sign into substance. Read Is. 1:1-15, vs. 11 "To what _____ is the multitude of your _____ unto me?... vs. 13 Bring no more _____ oblations;..." Israel went through all the ceremonies for "self" gratification, not because of an expression of a heart attitude of love towards God.

Unbelieving Israel was big on ceremony. They took pleasure and pride in their circumcision.

Lesson 78 Continued

Rom. 2:28, 29, "For he is not a _____, which is one _____; neither is that _____, which is _____ in the _____: vs. 29 But he is a _____, which is one _____: and _____ is that of the _____, in the _____, and not in the _____; whose praise is not of _____, but of _____."

Israel had placed her confidence in a religious rite for acceptance with God.

Paul taught in Gal. 6:15 that the physical act of circumcision or lack of it did not _____ anything. Circumcision had continued for the unbelieving Jew to be nothing more than a _____ shew in the _____, Gal. 6:12.

Being physically circumcised was equivalent to keeping the law. Acts 15:5, "...That it was needful to _____ them, and to command them to _____ the _____ of _____." Gal. 5:3, "...every man that is _____, that he is a _____ to do the _____."

Israel liked to single out the ceremony of circumcision but they themselves did not keep the law. Gal. 6:13, "For neither they themselves who are _____ the _____..."

What a sham they had made out of this sign that had represented all of God's great promises to Abraham!

Does God have a circumcision program for the body of Christ?

Col. 2:11, "In whom also ye are _____ with the _____ made _____, in putting off the body of the sins of the _____ by the _____ of _____."

Our circumcision is the "putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh." Our physical body commits sins only as it is dominated by our flesh (sinful nature). Our sin nature was crucified with Christ Rom. 6:6 "Knowing this that our _____ is _____ with him, that the _____ of _____ might be _____..."

Gal. 2:20, "I am _____ with _____..."

Our sin nature was judged and put to death (thereby cut off) with Christ's death on the cross. Our vital union with Christ makes us partakers of the circumcision which fell on Christ. We have a spiritual circumcision that comes as a result of being identified with Christ. We stand before God as one whose sin nature, flesh, has been judged, cut off, and severed from having any more power to condemn us or have dominion over us.

Can we hold back a shout of Hallelujah!

This is why Paul can say to the Colossians in 3:9, "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye _____ the _____ with _____."

God says it's an accomplished operation. Reckon this truth to be the reality that it is in your life. We are now the _____ according to Phil. 3:3. We can begin to understand the shock, the amazement that Paul expressed when he hears that believers wanted to abandon this glorious position of "circumcision made without hands: for one that put them under the law, putting them into bondage. The substitutionary "circumcision work" accomplished on the cross has been performed in us! The old man has been cut off!