

Study Guide for September 11th, 2011. The TRUE Jew: Romans 2:25-29.

Introduction: When have you observed symbol taking priority over substance?

I. The HISTORY and SIGNIFICANCE of Circumcision: (Selected passages)

A. Recall when and why God commanded circumcision.

- 1) Gen. 17:10-14: 2) Ex. 12:48 & Lev. 12:3 3) Josh. 5:2-7:

B. What spiritual reality does the physical act point toward in the following passages?

- 1) Deut. 10:16: 2) Deut. 30:6: 3) Jer. 4:3-4:

C. Read and then summarize the debate among the apostles regarding circumcision.

- 1) Acts 11:1-18: 2) Acts 15:1-35: 3) Gal. 2:1-10:

II. The VALUE of Circumcision: (Rom. 2:25-27)

A. What good is circumcision if you break the law? vs. 25

B. Who will be regarded as though they were circumcised? vs. 26

C. What will the uncircumcised law-keeper do to the circumcised law-breaker? vs. 27

D. Are those who received the law and identified themselves by circumcision better off than those without the law who are uncircumcised? Explain in your own words.

E. Repeat the previous questions (A – D) substituting baptism for circumcision.

III. The AUTHENTICITY of Circumcision: (Rom. 2:28-29)

A. How does Paul identify the **true** or **authentic** Jew? (Note the contrasts)

- 1) Identity is an _____ reality, not simply an _____ appearance.
- 2) True circumcision is of the _____, not simply an act done in the flesh.
- 3) True circumcision takes place by the _____, not by the _____ code.
- 4) True Jews receive praise from _____, not just from _____.

B. Does circumcision guarantee salvation? Does baptism guarantee salvation?

C. What does this passage teach us about becoming authentic followers of Jesus?