

We Are The Circumcision



That Christians realize that “we are the
circumcision.” Phil. 3:1-11

Introduction

- **There are many times that, as Christians, we try to distinguish ourselves from those of Old Testament days.**
 - We are under a new covenant, therefore delineating between us and those under the law.
 - We are under grace, not law. Jn. 1:17; Rom. 6:14
 - Our conditions of salvation are different from the Jews of the Old Testament.



Introduction

- **While Christians are in fact under much different circumstances, the greatest difference is seen between the contrast of the flesh and the spirit. Phil. 3:1-11**
 - We worship by the Spirit of God.
 - We have no confidence in the flesh.



We Worship By the Spirit of God

- **Old Testament circumcision: cutting off (mutilation) of the flesh.**
 - Originating with Abraham as a sign of God's covenant with Israel. Gen. 17:9-11
 - It was at Gilgal that God reminded Israel of their deliverance from Egypt and used circumcision as a sign and reminder of God's covenant and grace. Josh. 5:7-9
 - Circumcision was also to be the outward sign of what was to be obedience from the heart. cp. Deut. 10:16



We Worship By the Spirit of God

- **The Jews, by New Testament times, made much of circumcision.**
 - Many were more caught up with the incidentals of the law they forgot the Lawgiver. Cp. Lk. 11:37-42
 - Some of the Jewish Christians bound upon their Gentile brethren for salvation. Acts 15:1-5
 - Hence Paul refers to them as the mutilation, rather than simply the circumcised.
 - It is no different than Christians today are simply get “wet” through baptism, rather than have their sins “washed” away.



We Have No Confidence In The Flesh

- **We glory in Christ Jesus:**
 - This is a far cry from the “fleshly” Israel who boasted in the law. Rom. 2:17-23
 - The true Israel glories (boasts in) in Christ. 1 Cor. 1:30-31 (cp. Rom. 3:27; 1 Cor. 1:26-31)



We Have No Confidence In The Flesh

- **We have no confidence in the flesh:**
 - To contrast the “fleshly” Israel and the “real Jews” the apostle calls them “those mutilators of the flesh.”
 - The real Jews (spiritual Israel of the New Testament) would not boast of fleshly things: Phil. 3:4-6
 - What the real Jews have is confidence in Christ’s salvation.



Conclusion

- **There is a difference with the nation of Israel who rebelled against God in rejecting the Messiah.**
- **As the “real Jews” may our glory and confidence be in the Messiah who brought us into His everlasting kingdom.**

