

RUSSELL SANDERS

3-23-2022

CIRCUMCISION FULFILLED

There are two kinds of circumcision. One is of the flesh and the other is of the heart. We know that from the time of Abraham that circumcision of the flesh involved the cutting and removal of the foreskin or sheath of the penis of every male of Abraham's line of descent. For the Jews to this day, it is the mark that they are set aside as God's own people known by His name.

How are God's people known today? John 13:35 defines it. ***"By this shall all (people) know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*** These words of Jesus let us know that God is known today by the "agape" love that He miraculously places within His New Covenant children. Our love in our hearts for one another exemplifies His love for all people everywhere. This "heart condition" is called "circumcision of the heart," as spoken of by Paul in Romans 2:29. ***"But he is a Jew (or child of God) which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, and not in the letter"*** of the Old Covenant law.

However, even in the Old Covenant we see that it is a matter of the heart (spirit of man) for those who truly love the Lord. Such is why David was called a man after God's own heart. Jeremiah 4:4 says, ***"Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart..."*** In the Pentateuch, (first five books of the bible or Torah) it is written in Deuteronomy 30:6, ***"And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart....to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart and with all thine soul..."***

Deuteronomy 30:14 further says, ***"But the word (of God) is very nigh (near) and unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thine heart..."*** and Romans 10:8 echoes the same, ***"...The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that is, the word of faith..."***

While the Word is within us, we must still diligently search the written word of God so that ***"Thy word have I hid (or kept) in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*** (Psalms 119:11.)

Circumcision of the heart cuts off the fleshly desires of the heart (spirit) of mankind just as the Jews cut off the flesh of bodily circumcision. By "circumcision of the heart" we can now truly know the heart of the Father. It is "circumcision fulfilled."