

Date: June 27 & 28, 2009
Text: Romans 4:9-12
Topic: Circumcision. Baptism.
Study: Romans
Week: 29
Series: 3 of 5
CD #: 09-21

Focal Point Radio Ministries

Dr. Mike Fabarez

The Gospel According to Abraham

Rethinking Outward Signs & Inward Realities

part 3



1. Understand _____ (v.9)

2. Know _____ (vv.10-11)

3. Be _____ (v.12)

Romans 4:9-12

⁹ Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised?

We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness.

¹⁰ Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before!

¹¹ And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.

So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them.

¹² And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. What are some of the dangers of failing to differentiate between the biblically commanded ceremonial signs and the realities they are supposed to represent?

Why do you think so many prefer to check the box of participating in an "external sign" rather than to engage in the "inward reality" of trusting completely in Christ?

2. Read **Jeremiah 4:4** and **Deuteronomy 30:6**. Why are these passages so important in understanding the limitations of the Old Testament sign of physical circumcision?
3. Why do most couples (or why did you) choose to add a variety of symbolic formalities and ceremonial elements to their wedding event as opposed to simply filing the legal paperwork?
4. Read **Matthew 28:19-20**. In the New Covenant, Jesus commanded us to baptize those who have become his disciples. Have you been baptized by a church leader after you became a follower of Christ? If not, when will you? If so, what was that like?
5. How would you respond to someone who tells you that because water baptism does not save him, he is not going to do it?

Read Through the Bible in a Year

Here's this
week's schedule:

June 28th
2Chr.1-2 & Ps.29-30
June 29th
2Chr.3-4 & Ps.31-32
June 30th
2Chr.5-6 & Ps.33-34
July 1st
2Chr.7-9 & Ps.35-36
July 2nd
2Chr.10-12 & Ps.37
July 3rd
2Chr.13-14 & Ps.38-39
July 4th
2Chr.15-16 & Ps.40-41
July 5th
2Chr.17-18 & Ps.42-43

Here is a list of other recorded sermons by Pastor Mike which may assist you in your further study of today's message.

CD # 0706 – **A Crash Course on Christ's Two Ordinances**
CD # 0615 – **A Crash Course in Justification & Sanctification**
CD # 0634 – **Why Don't We Have to Keep All Those Old Testament Ceremonies?**
CD # 0801 – **Realities Instead of Rituals**
CD # 0836 – **No Hiding Behind Religious Trappings**

Here are some resources which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in this week's sermon.

Carson, Alexander. **Baptism: Its Mode and Subjects**. Reprint. Kregel, 1981.
Conant, Thomas Jefferson. **The Meaning and Use of BAPTIZEIN**. Reprint. Kregel, 1977.
Dyer, Larry E. **Baptism: The Believer's First Obedience**. Kregel Publications, 2000.
Erickson, Millard. "The Initiatory Rite of the Church" in **Christian Theology (Second Edition)**. Baker Books, 1998.
Feinberg, John S. **Continuity and Discontinuity: Perspectives on the Relationship Between OT & NT**. Crossway, 1988.
Jewett, Paul K. **Infant Baptism & the Covenant of Grace: An Appraisal of the Argument**. Wipf & Stock, 1978.
Malone, Fred A. **A String of Pearls Unstrung: A Theological Journey Into Believers' Baptism**. Founders Press, 1998.
Schreiner, Thomas, ed. **Believer's Baptism: Sign of the New Covenant in Christ**. B & H Academic, 2006.
Unger, Merrill F. **The Baptism & Gifts of the Holy Spirit**. Moody Press, 1974.
Watson, T. E. **Should Babies Be Baptized?** Grace Publications, 1995.
Waymeyer, Matt. **A Biblical Critique of Infant Baptism**. Kress Christian Publications, 2008.
Whitney, Donald. **Spiritual Disciplines Within the Church: Participating Fully in the Body of Christ**. Moody, 1996.