

**Monday, 18 September 2017** Romans 2:25

For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision.

Consider, for the moment, that circumcision is an outward sign that an individual is a Jew. What outward signs mark me as a Christian? Is it the cross that I wear? No, that is a common piece of jewelry. Is it attendance at a Christian church on a regular basis? No more than sleeping weekly in the garage makes me a car. It's not even living that list of behaviors in Ephesians 4:17-32.

No, it is living that life of hope that Peter speaks of in 1 Peter 3:15 and being able to provide the reason for that hope with gentleness and respect.

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**Tuesday, 19 September 2017** Romans 3:1-4

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."

Does my sin invalidate the faithfulness of God? "By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar" My disobedience, my hypocrisy, my sin cannot destroy the truth and grace of God's offer of salvation and transformation.

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**Wednesday, 20 September 2017** Romans 3:21-23

**But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

*"for all who believe" "in the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ."* This is the process of conviction, confession, transformation, results. This is the inward working of the Belief/trust/commit/obey/faith cycle. This is total declaration of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

**Thursday, 21 September 2017** Romans 4:1-3

**What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."**

Abraham believed God regarding what? Check out the story in Genesis 15:1-6 and the answer is? He believed the LORD, God, the Almighty's promise that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. He accepted this completely and his life began the process of transformation.

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**Friday, 22 September 2017** Romans 4:4-8

**Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."**

Belief in Him=>forgiveness=>the ultimate blessing. **BUT** it is belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? A life transformimng conviction! A life transforming compulsion to know Him and obey Him! A life transforming passion to tell others of the Good News! A new man in Christ Jesus!

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**Saturday, 23 September 2017**

**Romans 4:11-12**

He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

There is an important point that is implied in this passage. It is that the righteousness of God is granted before any

outward manifestation of faith in Him. In other words, before any self-motivated works can be performed. The Holy Spirit entered and began His life altering work at the very moment that I accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior.

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**Lord's Day, 24 September 2017 Psalm 119:155**

Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes.

Lord, I am thinking of the individual who is afflicting one of the members of our Worship Team., Bless him and bring him to know You and accept You as Lord and master. Heal him of his addictions and fill his heart with love for You.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*September 18-24, 2017*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Timothy 2:1-6**

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. . . .*

Brothers and sisters,

We are called in these difficult times to be beacons of light, voices of reason; the blessed peacemakers who are called the Son's of God.

We are called to be the prayer warriors who pray unceasingly for those in authority, whether POTUS, SCOTUS or dog catcher. And for the leadership of the [congregation]

We are called to be men who live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and honesty; ones whose every word and action brings glory and honor to the Name of Jesus.

It is the LORD, God, the Almighty's will for His people that we serve to bring all men to a saving knowledge of the truth. It is His will that we lead people to know "You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

May we be be faithful and obedient servants.

**Creational Theology Hint for the Week:** Summer ends and fall begins amid record breaking storms, earthquakes and raging forest fires. It is comparatively easy to see the restorative results of a forest fire, but less obvious to see the hand of God in storms and earthquakes. We must never forget that by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16