

Theme: Christ is the focus and fulfillment of the ceremonial aspects of the law, and He enables His people to walk in true holiness.

I. Intro – My Visit to St. Mary’s

- A. Decided to visit St. Mary’s as a mid
- B. Very confusing time!
 - 1. Lots of paintings, statues, etc.
 - 2. No familiarity with liturgy
 - 3. Got out as fast as I could!
- C. What do we make of ceremonial aspect of law?
 - 1. It seems so unfamiliar, we just want to get out!
 - 2. What is its relationship to Christ?
 - 3. Does it apply today?

II. Ceremonial Aspects of the Law

- A. Key components of ceremonial law
 - 1. Sacrificial system – next week
 - 2. Circumcision – bodily separation
 - 3. Food laws – dietary separation
 - 4. No-mixture laws – many areas

B. The ceremonies commanded

- 1. Circumcision – Covenant sign
 - a. Sign, all males, penalty – Gen 17:10-14
 - b. Require for Passover – Ex 12:44, 48
- 2. Food laws
 - a. Leviticus 11:41-44 – don’t eat it!
 - b. The kosher system
- 3. No-mixture laws
 - a. Deut 22:9-11 – No mixtures!
 - b. Orderliness in fields, animals, materials
 - c. Mixture was considered impure

C. The result of the ceremonies: a distinct people

- 1. Circumcision, holiness code marked off Jews
- 2. God-fearers – Acts 17:4, 17 – liked Jews, not ceremonial

III. The NT Teaching on Ceremonial Aspects

A. Ceremonial aspects no longer required

- 1. Circumcision – Gal 5:2,3,6; 6:15; (Acts 15)
- 2. Food laws – Mark 7:1-4; 14-19

B. Ceremonial law pointed to something deeper (text)

1. Circumcision (heart) – Deut 10:16; 30:6; Jer 4:4; 9:25-26
2. Food laws – Leviticus 11:41-44 (“be holy”)
3. Non-mixture – Deut 7:3-4 (be separate from unbelievers)

C. The deeper realities are now fulfilled

1. Circumcision – Rom 2:28-29; 1 Cor 7:19; Col 2:11-13
2. Food laws – 1 Peter 1:14-16
3. No mixture – 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

IV. The Ceremonial Aspect of the Law Today

A. Has your heart been circumcised by Christ?

1. This is what it means to be a Christian!
2. He wants to cut the sin nature away from us
3. Come and have your heart circumcised!

B. Faith – not ceremonies – marks the people of God

1. This was always true! – Romans 4:3, 9-11
2. Ceremonies (baptism, supper) – don’t make Christians!
3. Faith unites us to Christ

C. Are you separate from the world?

1. Christ circumcises & separates from world
2. We are **in** but not **of** the world
3. Interior separation – true holiness
4. Are you out of step w/ world? Should be!

Christ and the Ceremonial Aspect of the Law

Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 9:9-10

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Circumcise My Heart To Obey Your Word OR ???

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner-- those who are not your offspring. ¹³ Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." Genesis 17:10-14

Any slave you have bought may eat of it after you have circumcised him... ⁴⁸ "An alien living among you who wants to celebrate the LORD's Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat of it. Exodus 12:44, 48

⁴¹ "Every creature that moves about on the ground is detestable; it is not to be eaten. ⁴² You are not to eat any creature that moves about on the ground, whether it moves on its belly or walks on all fours or on many feet; it is detestable. ⁴³ Do not defile yourselves by any of these creatures. Do not make yourselves unclean by means of them or be made unclean by them. ⁴⁴ I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves about on the ground. Leviticus 11:41-44

Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women. Acts 17:4

So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. Acts 17:17

Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law... ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Galatians 5:2-3, 6

Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. Galatians 6:15

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and ² saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) Mark 7:1-4

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'" ¹⁶ ¹⁷ After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸

"Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'?" ¹⁹ For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.") Mark 7:14-19

Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. Deuteronomy 10:16

The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live. Deuteronomy 30:6

⁴ Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts, you men of Judah and people of Jerusalem, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done-- burn with no one to quench it. Jeremiah 4:4

²⁵ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will punish all who are circumcised only in the flesh-- ²⁶ Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab and all who live in the desert in distant places. For all these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart." Jeremiah 9:25-26

³ Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, ⁴ for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. Deuteronomy 7:3-4

²⁸ A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God. Romans 2:28-29

¹⁹ Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts. 1 Corinthians 7:19

In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins... Colossians 2:11-13

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:14-16

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." 17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. 2 Cor 6:14-7:1

What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness" 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. Rom 4:3, 9-11