

## He Is a Jew

Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1985

### **Romans 2:28-29**

*“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”*

Let's open our Bible today to the book of **Romans, chapter 2**. I'd like for you to get a Bible and read these two verses. I am going to speak on the subject: **“HE IS A JEW.”** I'll be speaking from **Romans 2: 28 through 29**.

We are going to have a little controversy in this message. I am going to stir up your thoughts for little bit, I want to set you to do a little thinking.

Are you with me, will you let me preach to your heart. Will you lend me your ears for just a moment and hear what I have to say?

In **Romans 2:28**, the Scripture says; *“For he is not a Jew which is one outwardly neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh.”* That is not true circumcision; *“He is not a Jew which is one outwardly”* and circumcision is not merely cutting the flesh.

Paul is writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the **book of Romans**. *“He is a Jew which is one inwardly and circumcision is that of the heart. It is in the Spirit and not in the letter whose praise is not of men but of God.”*

There is no better proof of our fall in Adam, our spiritual darkness and our ignorance of the living God that can be found anywhere as it is in the fact that we think that God almighty, the living God, is pleased with, satisfied with, and impressed with, our outward programs and forms of religion.

That is the greatest proof of man's fallen condition that you can find anywhere. It is the greatest proof of his spiritual darkness and of his ignorance of the living God; we think that God is impressed with, pleased with and satisfied with our lip service.

Christ said, *“These people call me Lord with their lips but their hearts are far from me.”* They come and they sit as the people in the congregation, but their hearts are somewhere else. They go after covetousness and other gods and worship idols.

Lip service does not please God, and to think that it does is to reveal spiritual darkness and ignorance in the living God. To think that our ceremonies and all of our outward morality and religious deeds, to think that this pleases God is not true.

Listen to the Pharisee; he was a representative of religion in his day. He stood in the temple and prayed thus with himself; *“God I thank you that I am not like other men.”* He said; *“I am not an adulterer; I’m not an extortioner and I am not unjust. I tithe all that I possess; and I give alms to the poor.”*

For that man to think that the eternal, omnipotent, God is pleased with or impressed with his outward service and outward morality is for that man to show pure ignorance of who God is and to reveal his total, fallen, condition.

To think that our duties, works, and our tithes and our religious services, our cold doctrines and dead prayers impress the living God, is to reveal our total ignorance of God.

My friends, I wouldn’t discourage any man from devotions; I encourage devotions. I wouldn’t discourage any man from prayer and worship or from a godly walk; I encourage those things (even doing good works in the name of Christ).

However, a man can engage in all of these things which the Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees did. Man can engage in all of these outward forms of religion such as morality, deeds, laws and ceremonies and not know God.

There are rituals, holy days, fastings and tithings. A man can proselyte converts; he can engage in all of these things and totally miss a right knowledge of God. He can totally miss a living union with the Lord.

I’ll give you two or three examples of this.

There is one in **Matthew 7**. Our Lord said, in that great day of judgment; *“Many (not just a few), will say unto me; Lord, we prophesied (preached) in your name. We cast out devils in your name.*

*We healed the sick in your name.”* (We built schools, universities, colleges, and churches in your name. We did many wonderful humanitarian works in your name). *“And then will I profess unto them; I never knew you. Depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*

One of the proofs of our blindness and our spiritual darkness (our ignorance of God) is that we think what we do outwardly in the form of religion impresses God (religious holy days, morality, and these things).

It does not impress God. *“In the flesh no man can please God. In the flesh dwelleth no good thing.”* Paul is saying, “We are not capable of thinking anything pure and holy of ourselves.”

To entertain the thought that anything you do or say or think can impress an infinite, unchangeable, eternal, Holy God is to show that you don’t know yourself or God.

Saul of Tarsus was so religious. He was one of the greatest, religious, leaders of his day. He said; *“I was born of the tribe of Benjamin. I was a Hebrew of Hebrews. I was circumcised the eighth day of the tribe of Benjamin.”*

“My momma was a Hebrew and my daddy was a Hebrew.” He said, *“I excelled in religion and concerning the law, I was blameless.”* He had zeal and enthusiasm. *“He persecuted the church.”* But he said; “I did not know God and didn’t even know that I was a sinner. *I was dead in trespasses and sin.”*

This is the very thought Paul is setting forth right here in **Romans 2**; do you see it? The Scripture says; *“He is not a Jew which is one outwardly; he is a Jew (a believer) which is one inwardly.”*

Circumcision is not in the flesh, but it is of the heart and in the spirit. Circumcision is not in the letter of the law or the letter of religion or the doctrine of religion. *“Whose praise is not of men, but of God.”* It is not done for the sake of men. It is not done to be seen of men.

That is what our Lord said in **Matthew** in the “Sermon on the Mount.” He said; *“These people pray on the street corners to be seen of men; they have their reward. They give (their ten percent and their large offerings) to be seen of men. They have their reward.”*

They fast and then they tell everyone in town; “Look; I have fasted this week.” They have their reward. They do it to be seen of men. Christ said; *“He is a Jew which is one inwardly, the true circumcision is of the heart.”*

What am I saying? I am saying the same thing that Paul is saying. A person is not a Christian; he is not a child of God; he is not a believer who is only an outward religionist.

He may have his good deeds, his morality, his church membership and religious ceremonies. But this does not make a person a child of God. This does not make a person a child of Abraham, a Christian. He is a Christian who is one inwardly, whose heart has been broken by the power of God and by the Spirit of God because of sin.

His heart has looked to, embraced and received the Lord Jesus Christ as Redeemer, Sanctifier, and Justifier. Christ is his Righteousness; that is the man who is a Christian. *“He is not one who is one outwardly.”* A Christian is one who is one inwardly.

Salvation is a heart work, an inward work and is not an outward profession. Salvation is not an outward religion or ceremony. True circumcision, (which I will help you with and get to in a moment), is not the cutting of the flesh and it is not even the fasting of the flesh or to deprive the flesh.

True circumcision is the work of God in the heart, that is where it takes place; there is a rending of the heart, a breaking of the heart. There is a smiting of the heart and a pricking of the heart by the Holy Spirit.

In **Luke 16:15**, our Lord said this to them; *“You are they which justify yourselves before men.”* I wonder just how much of our religious prayers, readings, giving, and serving are for the benefit of people around us; I wonder just how much.

Our Lord said; *“You are they which justify yourselves before men (to be seen of men, for the approval of men and women). “But God knows your hearts and that which is highly esteemed among men, (that which men commend and of that which they think highly), is an abomination in the sight of God.”*

I wonder how much of our religion is an abomination in the sight of God? I wonder how much of our carrying on, our clapping and our hand raising, and our bragging on the flesh, is an abomination.

We talk about our morality, our goodness, how sanctified we are, how righteous we are and how we live above sin. We talk about how we don't do this, that, and the other.

We also talk about how we got delivered, we gave this, we built that, and all we do is brag on the flesh which is *“The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but of the world.”*

I wonder how much of it, which is highly esteemed among men and credited by men, bragged on by men, and appreciated by men, is an abomination to God Almighty?

I am afraid that if we knew, it would turn our hair snow white. *“You are they which justify yourselves before men to be seen of men, but God looks on your heart.”* God knows what no one else knows. God knows what you don’t even know because, *“The heart is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things; who can know it?”*

God knows more than anyone knows. He knows more about you than you know yourself. It is an abomination to Him which is highly esteemed among men.

Paul said in **Romans 10**; *“With the heart man believeth unto righteousness.”* We don’t walk with our feet to glory; we come through faith which is born of God in the heart.

In **1 Samuel 16** it says, *“The Lord doesn’t see as man seeth; man looks on the outward countenance (and approves of what we say and approves of what we do), but God looks on the heart.”* God doesn’t approve of what He sees.

We can read the Bible through and say; “I know my Bible.” I wish you knew the Author. We can read the Bible through and spend much time in religious works. We can listen to preachers and learn doctrines. We can sit down at the ordinances and break the bread, pour the wine, and profess great holiness.

We can make pretensions and professions and join movements. We can support great causes but if we have never found Christ in all these things, as they speak of Him, as they reveal Him, as they point to Him, it will only add to our condemnation.

If we have never been made new creatures in the heart, born again of the Spirit of God, or never found our acceptance with a holy God, only in His dear Son, then we will be condemned.

If we have never been brought like Mary to the feet of Christ, caring not what men say, hear, think, or do, then we add to our condemnation.

If we have never been brought to love Him and find a saving interest in Him and lay hold of Him in the heart, then we only add to our condemnation. All we have ever done, thought, said, or given, is in vain and will only add to our condemnation when we stand before a Holy God.

Martha stood before Him one day after Lazarus had died and said; *“Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.”* He said, *“Thy brother shall rise again.”* She knew that and she believed in the resurrection and she knew that they would all be raised in that great day.

Christ told her, *“Martha; I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me shall never die.”* Do you believe this? You believe a doctrine but the point is to believe a person, Christ is *“the resurrection and the life.”*

You believe in a resurrection, but the point is to believe in a living Lord, the God of life. Do you believe a doctrine or do you believe a person? Have you closed with a tradition or have you closed with a person?

It doesn’t matter if you are a Catholic, Baptist, or a Jew. The problem is you need to know Christ. You need to forget all of these names and come to know Him.

Look closely at the text again; I told you that I was going to work this thing over and say what needs to be said. Someone needs to say it. People either can’t say it or won’t say it but it needs to be said.

Look at our text: *“He is not a Jew which is one outwardly; He is a Jew which is one inwardly.”* What is meant by the word *“Jew”* here? Will you listen a moment?

There was a nation called *“Israel”* and a people called *“Jews.”* They were called *“The people of God.”* God gave them the promises; God gave them the prophecies, the law, the tabernacle, the sacrifices, the priesthood, the atonement, the ark and the mercy seat. These people were called *“Jews.”*

Not all of these people knew God or believed God. These people were filled with unbelief and idolatry. In fact, most of them perished in the wilderness; their carcasses fell in the wilderness.

Out of all the people who left Egypt, which were three or four million of them, journeyed toward the *“Promise Land.”* There were only two of them that entered the *“Promise Land”* who were over 20 years of age when they left Egypt.

Out of that entire crowd who left Egypt, only two over the age of 20 years entered the *“Promise Land”* and they were Joshua and Caleb. The Scripture says the others *“Could not enter in because of unbelief.”*

So, these people were not the people of God; they were a typical people. They were called the people of God, who were called “Israel” and called “Jews.”

They were a typical people just like that tabernacle was a typical place, just like that priesthood was a typical priesthood; they did not have the power to save.

Just like that blood offering did not have the power to put away sin, *“The blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin.”* It represents the blood of Christ. Those Jews and Israelites in the wilderness were not the people of God; they just represented the people of God.

They were called *“The church in the wilderness.”* They were types of the church. They were called *“The children of Abraham”* but were not all the children of Abraham.

They were called *“The Israel of God”* but only in picture and only in type, for their religion was in outward forms and not in the heart. Just as the types are no more, that typical nation is no more.

Christ is our sin offering; Christ is our Saviour; Christ is the Seed of Abraham and all who are in Christ are Jews. All who are in Christ are spiritual Israel. *“All Israel shall be saved.”* I’m telling you the truth.

Listen to me; I wouldn’t deceive you; buy you a Bible. Our Lord said; *“He is not Jew which is one outwardly; He is a Jew which is one inwardly.”* He is not true Israel which is Israel outwardly, which is called by a name, or traces his lineage back to Abraham.

Ishmael traces his lineage back to Abraham, but he is not the true Israel. He is not a son of Abraham; he is not a son of God who is only one by natural birth, by religious form or by outward ceremony. *“He is a Jew which is one inwardly.”* He is born of God, born of the Spirit, and is a true child of God.

Israel in the Old Testament (the Jews in the Old Testament), were a typical people just as the tabernacle, the priesthood and the sacrifices were typical sacrifices that could not save. These people were a typical people, which for the most part were not saved. They were not true children of Abraham.

Let me show you something in **Romans 9:6-7**; *“They are not all Israel which are of Israel (or in the nation Israel). Neither, because, they are the seed of Abraham are they the children of Abraham, but in Isaac, (that is in Christ), shall thy seed be called.”*

Listen to this in **Galatians 3:7**; *“Know ye therefore, that they which are of faith, the same are the sons of Abraham.”* They which are of faith are the children of Abraham and they which are not of faith (those who are in unbelief), are not the children of Abraham and they are not Jews.

**Galatians 3:27** says, *“As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, bond nor free, male nor female in Christ. You are all one in Christ and if you be Christ’s, then are you Abraham’s seed and heirs of the promise.”*

Do you want to know who a Jew is? This is the title of my message; **“HE IS A JEW.”** You are looking at one right now. He is a Jew which has been brought by the Spirit of God to true faith in Jesus Christ.

He is a Jew who is the true Israel of God, who is born of the true Isaac, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is a Jew; he is Abraham’s seed who is of the faith of Abraham. There is no other distinction in the Kingdom of God.

*“He that hath the Son of God hath life and he that hath not the Son of God, hath not life, (hath not God).”* Listen to this; *“No man knoweth the Father save the Son and he to whom the Son will reveal Him.”*

A man doesn’t even know God, love God, worship God, or have any relationship with God, apart from Jesus Christ. Christ is God; *“He is the express image of God.”* Jesus Christ is the express image of God. Christ said, *“He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father.”* Today’s Jew, today’s true Israel, are the children of faith among all nations; this is what the Word of God teaches.

I hear a lot of people say, “Well; these people worship the one and only God but they don’t believe in Jesus Christ.” This is an impossibility; that can’t be so! Christ is God; *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”*

He said, *“No man knoweth the Father save the Son and he to whom the Son will reveal Him.”* A man cannot know God apart from Christ because He is the revelation of God and the only revelation of God. He is the *“Express image of God. I and my Father are one.”*

How can you know God if you do not know Christ? It is impossible; *“He is not a Jew which is one outwardly; he is a Jew which is one inwardly.”* This is what the Scripture says.

I want you to hold on; I'm going to tell you something and I'm going to cross the grain of most fundamentalists. America's destiny is not determined by how she treats a nation of people over in Palestine or Jerusalem, who call themselves "Jews."

That is not true Israel. Those are not the true Jews. *"He is not a Jew which is one outwardly; he is a Jew which is one inwardly"* by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. *"In Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, bond nor free ye are all one in Christ."*

So many people have got the idea that we are suppose to put up with everything that little nation does over there, right or wrong, because they are God's chosen people. There is no such thing because they are not the Israel of God, they are not.

A man who does not have Christ does not have God. There is only one way to God and that is in Christ. There is only one way to know God and that is in Christ. The Scripture says; *"As much as you have done it to the least of my brethren, you have done it unto me."* That is every believer, the true Israel, *"of every nation, tongue, tribe, under heaven."*

Look at the text again: *"True circumcision is not that which is outward in the flesh."* I'm talking about ordinances, standing by the "Wailing Wall," offering sacrifices, going into the Holy of Holies, or going through all these motions.

*"True circumcision is not in the letter and is not outward in the flesh, it is of the heart and is in the spirit,"* which God sees and God recognizes.

If you will read **Genesis 17 and Exodus 4**, you will see that God gave Abraham and the nation of Israel a sign or a token of His covenant with Abraham. That sign was that every male child was to be circumcised. This circumcision was an undeniable sign that the person was an Israelite. To be uncircumcised was not to be of Israel.

What is the token or the sign that a person is a true Jew or true Israel or a true believer? Is it something that he does in the flesh? No sir; it is something that God has done in his heart! *"It is not in the letter;"* it is not in the form, it is not in the flesh; it is in the heart.

Circumcision again, is a typical ceremony. This outward circumcision could no more make a man a child of God than the blood of an animal could take away our sin.

You can go down to the baptismal waters and eat the bread and wine. You can walk so many miles, crawl on spikes, crawl on broken glass, and do all of these things in the flesh. You cannot justify yourself before God or make yourself a child of God.

True circumcision is a heart work, an operation on the heart. It is a true work of grace on the heart. When that takes place, when God rends the heart, breaks the heart and smites the heart, it brings a man to true conviction, repentance, and true faith in Christ. It is an undeniable sign that he is a child of God.

*“He is not a Jew which is one outwardly,”* who lives in a certain nation, who goes through certain forms, but *“He is a Jew which is one inwardly.”*

Circumcision is not cutting the flesh and doing all of these things outwardly. It is not in making all of these crosses, signs, sprinkling water or throwing things. True circumcision is to have the heart broken, *“For in Christ neither circumcision nor uncircumcision availeth anything”* but a new creature. *“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.”*

Circumcision is not a work performed by men but a work on the heart performed by God. Circumcision is not an outward work of religion but an inward work of grace. Circumcision is not the flesh but is in the heart. *“Circumcision is not in the letter but is in the Spirit.”* Circumcision as an outward sign was done away with in Christ.

In summary: *“He is not a Jew which is one outwardly; He is a Jew who is one inwardly”* by grace, truth and faith. He is a child of Abraham who is one inwardly by the grace of God.

Circumcision and outward deeds and form are no signs, whatsoever, of spirituality just because a man can pray long prayers, read the Bible, and pronounce the word “shibboleth” or some other Greek or Hebrew word. This does not mean that he knows God, it is a heart work.

Christ said in **Matthew 23**, *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”*

Paul said, *“We are the true circumcision who worships God in the Spirit, who rejoice in Jesus Christ and who have no confidence in this flesh.”*

Our confidence is in Christ, now you think on these things!