

Colossians 2:-11-12

Christian Circumcision

Introduction:

The great Baptist preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892) was a strong believer in Covenant Theology. He was influenced by the Reformers and the Puritans. We know that many modern Baptists have outright rejected Covenant Theology; not really knowing what Spurgeon believed. Spurgeon was a strong Calvinist as were many of his Presbyterian friends who taught at Spurgeon pastor's college.

Although Spurgeon could not avoid the teaching of Scripture regarding God's covenant with believing parents and their children; his only difference with the Presbyterians was chiefly with the practice of infant baptism as the covenant sign.

My aim will be to show that the Covenant sign in the Old Testament being circumcision expresses the continuity in the New Testament with the covenant sign of water baptism. The sign of circumcision is supplanted by the sign of baptism.

I. The Significance of Circumcision

A. Old Testament sign given to parents and their children – Exodus 12:48,49

1. Origin – Gen. 17:8
2. Paul interprets Gen. 17, in Romans 4:1-5; 9-17 Turn to:
3. The sign speaks of the reality – Rom. 9:6

B. The Graphic Nature of Circumcision

C. The Spiritual Nature of Circumcision

1. Stiff necked people – Deut. 10:16; Jer. 4:4
2. Circumcision of the heart – Rom. 2;29

D. Oneness

1. There is only One God, of Jews and Gentiles – Rom, 3:29,30
2. There is only One Lord, One Faith and One Baptism – Eph. 4:5
3. What exactly is the circumcision of Christ?

II. The Significance of Baptism

A. The physical sign has changed but the meaning is the same.

B. Infant baptism:

1. Peter's sermon – Acts 2:39
2. Dr. Oliver Buswell's Systematic Theology – Col. 2:11,12

C. Households:

1. Nothing is new – Gen. 17:23; Gen. 14:14-16 (318 members)
2. Modern society thinks individuality but the Scripture thinks in households.
3. Gordon Keddie comments – Col. 2:11,12; I Cor. 7:14
4. The household of Lydia – Acts 16:14,15
5. The household of the Philippian jailer – Acts 16:23-40

Finally:

The symbol of the Covenant sign of baptism is the membership card that we are in union with Christ in His Burial and His Resurrection.