**Heart Surgery**

*Romans 2:25–29*

**Passage Background and Context Information**

In Romans 2, the Apostle Paul asserts that God equally condemns Jews and Gentiles. Both parties deserve the full wrath of God in hell. Gentiles are condemned for violating their conscience, which witnesses to the objective, absolute, universal moral law of God. Jews will not be shown any favors simply because they possess God’s written law. However, there was one more thing that Jews considered their ace in the hole, circumcision. Circumcision is a physical sign of membership in the people of God.

Already in the lifetime of the Apostle Paul, circumcision was regarded as a ticket to heaven. Jewish tradition pictures Father Abraham as sitting at the gate of hell to ensure that no circumcised person be allowed to enter. To the average Jew, circumcision seems to have carried an unquestioned pledge of eternal security.

So how could Jews be treated the same as Gentiles, even to the point of being in danger of the wrath of God, when circumcision marks them as belonging to God?

**The Question**

How can we receive pardon from God’s wrath and receive God’s praise on Judgment Day?

**Bible Verse**

###### Romans 2:25-27 (CSB)

25Circumcision benefits you if you observe the law, but if you are a lawbreaker, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

26So if an uncircumcised man keeps the law’s requirements, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?

27A man who is physically uncircumcised, but who keeps the law, will judge you who are a lawbreaker in spite of having the letter of the law and circumcision.

**1. It is not by a \_\_\_\_\_\_ ritual or symbolic procedure. (25-27)**

* **Galatians 5:3** Again I testify to every man who gets himself circumcised that he is obligated to do the entire Law.
* **James 2:10** “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”
* **Philippians 3:4-8 4** although I have reasons for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more:
5 circumcised the eighth day; of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; regarding the law, a Pharisee;
6 regarding zeal, persecuting the church; regarding the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.
7 But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ.
8 More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ.

**Bible Verse**

###### Romans 2:28-29 (CSB)

28For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, and true circumcision is not something visible in the flesh.

29On the contrary, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart — by the Spirit, not the letter. That person’s praise is not from people but from God.

**2. It is by a real, \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ heart surgery! (28-29)**

* When Judah was named, his mother declared, “This time I will praise the Lord” (Gen 29:35). When his father was at the end of his life, he predicted, “Judah, your brothers will praise you” (Gen 49:8).

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

**Jeremiah 31:33** “Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days” — the LORD’s declaration. “I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

**Ezekiel 36:26** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

**Pray**

“Jesus, I confess I am a sinner. I deserve Your judgment of death and hell. But I believe You love me, came down for me, lived a perfect life, and shed Your blood and died on the cross for my sins. I also believe that God raised You from the dead for the forgiveness of my sins, to change me, and grant me everlasting life. Please forgive me, change my heart, and give me eternal life. I believe You are my Forgiver and God. I give my life to love, obey, and make much of You! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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