

How To Avoid God's Wrath And Receive His Praise

Scripture Reading: Genesis 17:9-14

- A. Our study this morning is framed within two God-breathed bookends:
 - 1. *Romans 2:11* — “For God shows no partiality.”
 - 2. *Romans 2:29* — “His praise is not from man but from God.”
 - B. What an incredible thought—that **GOD** would be willing to praise **YOU!**
 - C. The obvious question is, “How? How can I live in such a way so as to enjoy that blessing?”
 - D. The Spirit's answer? Your heart must be circumcised.
- I. The Gentiles are Subject to God's Righteous Judgment (*Romans 2:12-16*)**
- A. For many generations, Gentiles had been “*without the law.*”
 - B. And yet, some had “*by nature*” done what the law requires.
 - C. On the day of reckoning, God will be just in judging the secrets of Gentiles by Christ Jesus.
- II. The Jews are Subject to God's Righteous Judgment (*Romans 2:17-24*)**
- A. “*All who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law*” (*Romans 2:12*).
 - B. Many Jews had failed to practice what they were preaching, and God had been dishonored.
 - C. On the day of reckoning, God will be just in judging the secrets of Jews by Christ Jesus.
- III. In Order to be Forgiven by God, the Heart Must be Circumcised (*Romans 2:25-29*)**
- A. Circumcision had its place in God's plan for the Jews under the Old Testament.
 - B. But don't believe that you will be spared at the last judgment by virtue of your circumcision!
 - C. If you want to be a part of God's chosen people—a true descendant of Abraham—you must be a Jew “*inwardly.*” Your heart must be circumcised.
 - D. How does that happen? *Colossians 2:6-3:17* contains the Holy Spirit's answer.
 - E. Do so, and then—Jew or Gentile, man or woman—you will be praised by God.