

ROMANS – FROM GUILT TO GLORY
Hey, There Is An Elephant In The Room!
Romans 2:25-29

“*The Emperor’s New Clothes*”.

- This story is about an emperor who was sold a magnificent set of clothes by two swindlers. ... The moral of this story is that we can't let pride keep us from speaking up when we know the truth.
 - Paul used to take pride in all the things we have been talking about over the last few Sundays in **Romans 2:17-24**.
 - Being called a Jew.
 - Living by the Law.
 - Believing that he had a special relationship with God.
 - Believing that he had a unique insight into the will of God.
 - To destroy these Christ followers.

God has a mission to accomplish and we have a part to play.

- We are to be a light to the nations.
- We are to take the word of salvation to all the nations.
- *But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake. - Acts 9*

So, what is the urgency here, why must I take this challenge to heart and make it my mission too?

- **Matthew 24:42-44. (now how will Jesus drive this point home)**
- Jesus tells a parable (**an earthly story with a heavenly meaning**).
 - **Matthew 25:1-13.**
 - Perishing without the Gospel.

Back in the book of Romans Paul gets ready to address the “*Elephant In The Room*” so to speak.

Read **Romans 2:25-29**.

- Circumcision:
 - “*In the Old Testament, circumcision was the outward sign of **entrance into the covenant community** or the community of God’s people. Circumcision was administered to all Israelite children when they were 8 days old.*” **Wayne Grudem – Systematic Theology**

- What do we have today that is similar to that outward sign of entrance into the community of believers?

Why doesn't Paul just list this in the items that were found in **Romans 2:17-20**.

Because much of the identity of the Jew was found in this act of circumcision but notice what Paul says in **Romans 2:25-29**.

- Hey circumcision is great, if you can keep all the Law, but if you break the Law then your circumcision has actually become "uncircumcision".
 - The Jews believed so strongly that circumcision would save them that old Rabbinical writings contained such statements as "*No circumcised man will be lost.*"
 - In Paul's day there was a saying that Abraham stood at the gates of hades or hell to make sure that no circumcised man was ever cast into hell.

From the beginning, God's intent was for our hearts to be circumcised.

- **Deuteronomy 10:16.**
- **Deuteronomy 30:6.**
- **Jeremiah 4:4.**

Colossians 2:11-14

- **The wedding ring.**
 - Made of precious metal – like your marriage will become more precious over time.
 - It is circular having no ending – like your marriage is designed by God to last for as long as you live.
 - It is an outward sign to the world that your heart has been spoken for, and you can give it to no one else.