

The School of Biblical Law
Introduction to Law and Grace
Lesson Thirty Seven: "The True Jew"

Paul summarizes his thought by stating that the true Jew, the true covenant man, is not found through natural birth or human lineage nor through a religious rite such as circumcision. The Gentile who has the Law of God written on his heart through being born again is as true a Jew and heir to all the promises as was Abraham himself.

1. Being a Jew is a matter of the heart and of faith, not the flesh

"He is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men but from God" (Rom. 2:28-29).

"Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. How was it then reckoned? When he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised" (Rom. 4:7-12).

2. One is a Jew by faith, not works of the law.

"Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham" (Gal 3:6-9).

Jews, but of religion.

3. Not all of Abraham's descendants are true sons of Abraham.

"For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed" (Rom. 9:6-8).

"And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham" (Matt 3:9). Also Lk.3:8

"An in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments . . . And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me . . . Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house. For I have five brethren . . . Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them" (Lu. 16:23-29).

4. The way we live, not our birth certificate, shows whether or not we are the true Jews, the sons of Abraham.

"They said to him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith to them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. . . . Ye do the deeds of your father. . . . Ye are of your father, the devil" (Jn. 8:39-44).

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:12-13) Law.