

## **Dispensational Distinctives: Circumcision**

### **Important Points:**

- 1) The Bible contains distinctive (different) information
  - a. How do you reconcile distinct information in the Bible?
  - b. The purpose of our study is to show the underlying principle in scripture that removes the tension from these distinctives through an in depth study of one such distinctive: circumcision.
- 2) The Apostles debated doctrine.
  - a. In Acts 15 believers told gentiles if they did not circumcise they could not be saved. (Salvation Issue!)
  - b. Why would Paul and the apostles and elders in Jerusalem have to debate doctrine? (Shouldn't they have known?)
  - c. Why did they not just rebuke the men who said that people had to be circumcised in order to be saved?
  - d. Why was their "much dispute" over circumcision and the law?
  - e. Why did the apostles even need to consider this matter?
  - f. Who was right?
- 3) What was God's response to the rebellion of all mankind? God chose an individual (Abram) to work through to reconcile the world back unto himself and made promises to him.
- 4) God separated Abram.
- 5) God makes certain promises to Abram:
  - a. A land
  - b. A nation to fill that land (his seed)
  - c. God's blessings on that nation
- 6) Circumcision was a sign of the Abrahamic covenant.
  - a. God added circumcision to the promises to make the separation a reality.
- 7) Circumcision was an everlasting covenant to Abram and his seed and those of his house only.
  - a. The covenant was only with Israel, not the other nations.
  - b. The rest of the OT is about God explaining and Israel living out this covenant.
- 8) Circumcision was not optional. If you did not circumcise physically, your soul would be cut off. (remember it is an everlasting covenant)
- 9) Circumcision is the middle wall of partition between Israel & the nations (the circumcision & the uncircumcision), it is the separation.