



¹⁷ Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.

How did we get here?

- Romans 1:16-17
- Romans 1:18
- Romans 1:19-32
- Romans 2

How is the Bible divided into chapter and verse? Langton/Stephanus

3 divisions to chapter 3:

- 1-8 Answers to his Jewish dialog partner
- 9-20 Paul marshals evidence from the Scriptures, which the Jew reveres as authoritative, to prove his claims
 - The Jew is under the wrath of God
 - The whole world is under the wrath of God – Jew or Gentile (1:18)
- 21-31 Verse 21 recapitulates 1:17. God's righteousness in Jesus Christ

Verse 1:

Was God's calling of Abraham and the nation He built through him and the seal of circumcision a waste of time since the Jew is every bit as under the wrath of God as the Gentile? The promises He gave to the people of Israel, the giving of the law etc.... this was all a waste of time? All of this does not save the Jew? There is no purpose and point to being a Jew? Is the Old Testament null and void?

Circumcision:

Ex opere operato (from the work done): There is no transmissible grace in a sacrament, rather sacraments are the instruments used by God to confirm the word of His promise to those who believe.

Verse 2:

What is the advantage?

To begin with... (Romans 1:8)

...the Jews were *entrusted* (KJV vs. ESV)

... with the *oracles of God*.

What does this mean? A divine utterance, a divine revelation, the Word of God, or words spoken by God. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:19-21)

4x in the NT (Acts 7:38; Rom. 3:2; Heb. 5:12; 1 Pet. 4:11)



Why does he single this out as being the greatest privilege of all? This is the greatest advantage that the Jews possessed. More important than the crossing that the Red Sea, the drowning of Pharaoh's men, being fed manna, crossing the divided waters of the Jordan, or that they took Jericho by marching around it.

Infinitely more important was 'that unto them were entrusted the oracles of God.' Why?

- There is no higher privilege that can come to any human being than to be spoken to directly by God (Dt. 8:3). Does God stop speaking to man? Has God stopped speaking to you? (Amos 8:11).
- God spoke only to the nation of Israel, His peculiar treasure and possession for Himself. What a privilege to belong to this circumcised race!
- He revealed His character, His nature, His works, and He entered into a covenant with them (Gen. 12:2-3; Rom. 9:1-5).
- They were given the hope of the coming Messiah through these oracles (Dt. 18:15; Gen. 49:10).
- They were to be guardians and custodians having the knowledge and making it known. They were God's spokesmen and representatives!
- Through these oracles comes the knowledge that leads a man to know that he is a sinner, under the wrath of God, and therefore to go to God, in repentance, seeking mercy and deliverance and salvation. The pagan has no such knowledge and so remains under condemnation.

So, what does this mean to you?

Do you realize what a privilege it is that we have these Scriptures, New Testament as well as the Old! We have the living oracles of God.

When you read Scripture do you say, 'Here God is speaking to me, speaking to man and I am reading because it is God's direct Word.' Do you give the Scriptures as much time as other literature, television, and leisure activities? If not, you may not realize that these are the oracles of God! If we believed it, we would practice it!

Is there any advantage to being the child of Christian parents?