

Baptism signifies union with Christ and with the benefits of His redemption

(see pp. 156-158)

Circumcision signified cleansing from sin

- Deuteronomy 10:12-16 -- "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. Yet on your fathers did the Lord set his affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day. Circumcise then your heart, and stiffen no more."
- Jeremiah 4:3-4, 14 -- "For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem, 'Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the Lord And remove the foreskins of your heart, Men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, lest my wrath go out like fire And burn with none to quench it Because of the evil of your deeds. . . . Wash your heart from evil, O Jerusalem, That you may be saved. How long will your wicked thoughts Lodge within you?' "
- Jeremiah 9:2, 25-26 -- "O that I had in the desert A wayfarers' lodging place; That I might leave my people, And go from them! For all of them are adulterers, An assembly of treacherous men ;Behold, the days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'that I will punish all who are circumcised and yet uncircumcised -- Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the sons of Ammon, and Moab, and all those inhabiting the desert who clip the hair on their temples; for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised of heart.' "
- Deuteronomy 30:1-3, 6 -- "So it shall become when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the Lord your God has banished you, and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live."
- Ezekiel 44:6-7, 9 -- "And you shall say to the rebellious ones, to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Enough of all your abominations, O house of Israel, when you brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary to profane it, even My house, when you offered My food, the fat and the