

OT-OV

Lesson 43

1. Last week I taught Gen 17:7-9; when time expired and the Doctrine of Circumcision. I want to review some of that learned last week about circumcision.

2. The ritual of circumcision is related to:

2.1 a commemoration of Abraham's spiritual maturity,

2.2 a commemoration of God providing the heir of promise, Isaac

2.3 and the dedication of the phallus to only the right woman.

3. The meaning of circumcision must be learned from Gen 17:1-21 and its context.

3.1 Circumcision is related to the promise and the commemoration of the four unconditional covenants:

3.1.1 Abrahamic Covenant- Gen 12:1-3; 15:1-10, 12, 17 and 18; 17:1-11 and Gen 22:16-18.

3.1.2 Davidic Covenant - 2Sa 7:10-16

3.1.3 Palestinian Covenant - Eze 20:33-37 and 42-44; Gen 15:18-21

3.1.4 New Covenant - Jer 31:31-40

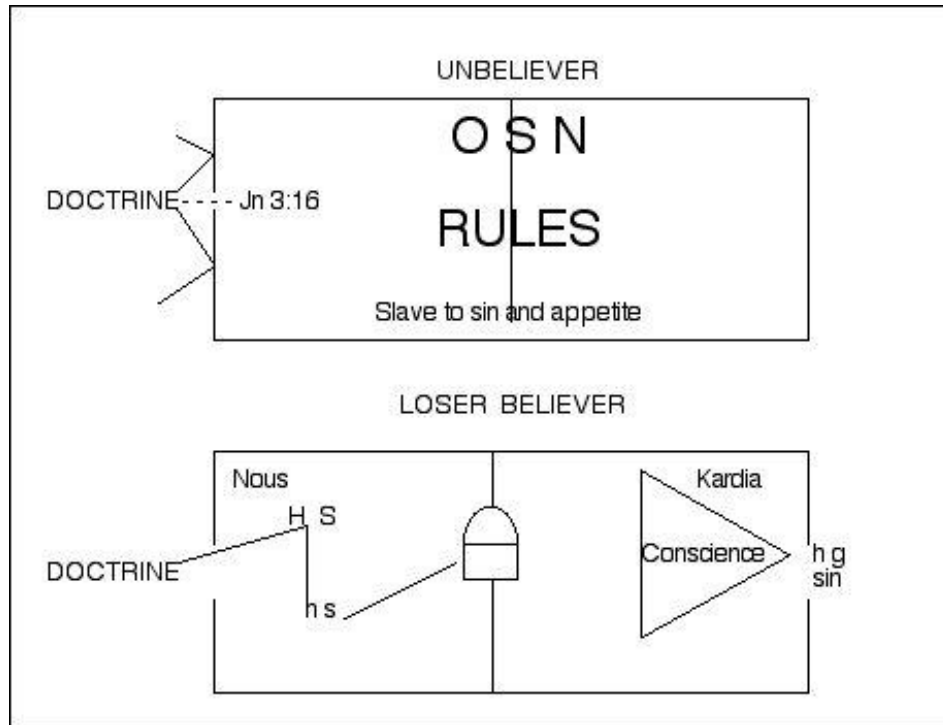
4. In Gen 17:1-11 God reaffirms the Abrahamic, Palestinian and Davidic Covenants with the ritual of Circumcision. At this time at the ripe old age of 99 Abraham is given the heir of the promise, Isaac, who is born that very year to his aged wife Sarah. This is not a new promise but like all blessings for time God will not bless unless there is capacity for the blessing. Capacity comes from Bible Doctrine resident in the soul.

4.1 You must have a cup if God is to pour goodness and mercy; God recall is glorified when He pours. Isa 30:18

4.2 Promises of an heir, numerous descendants, extensive land, a descendent on the throne forever, a promise through the seed of Abraham to bless the world and a people who in the Millennium would show the rest of the world how to live. Gen 12:1-3, 15:1-10, 12, 17, 18 and Gen 22:16-18

4.3 There were later in Scripture many enhancements to the promises showing that the unconditional covenants extended to the heirs of Abraham. Capacity for life comes from being positive to the Word of God.

4.4 Abraham and Sarah had grown in grace by repeated testing; they finally had capacity for their special blessing. The two had gone through periods of reversionism but ultimately they became mature believers and thus recipients of God's special blessing in their life.



4.5 Circumcision was therefore a sign of Abraham finally getting enough doctrine to enjoy his special son Isaac his unique heir.

4.6 The circumcised phallus would from this point in time be an iterative memorial and sign to commemorate Abraham's maturity and the need to grow in the faith as a post salvation demand of God.

5. Circumcision is a memorial to spiritual growth and is only a ritual of remembrance; it was a poignant reminder of God's promise to Abraham as a mature believer.

6. That it does not commemorate Abraham's salvation but is rather a post salvation commemoration of maturity is made clear in Scripture. He had already believed for salvation in Gen 12:1-3 (see above) and as recorded in Gen 15:6.

7. Circumcision even when Israel was still under the conditional covenant of the Mosaic Law was not a product of the law but a product of Doctrine resident in the soul. Rom 4:13

8. This act on the part of Abraham is used by Paul to differentiate how Abraham obtained spirituality by means of faith and not by the Law.

Rom 4:20 Yet Abraham did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

Rom 4:21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Rom 4:22 This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

Rom 4:23 The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone,

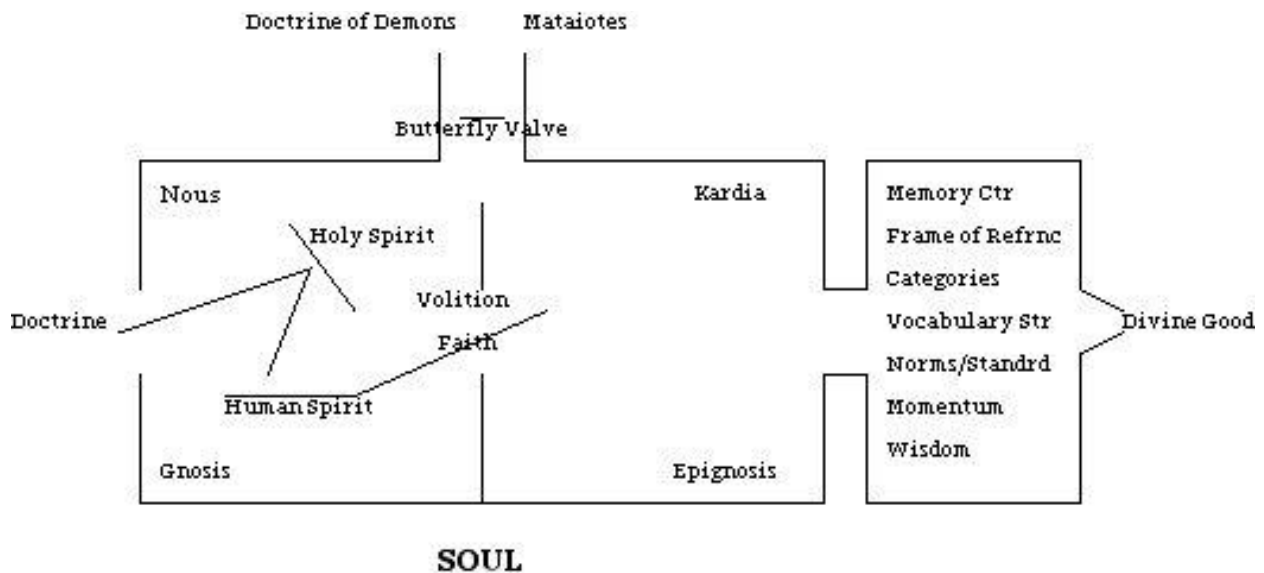
Rom 4:24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

9. Today in the Church Age, thanks to the mystery Doctrines provided to us in grace, we know to call the sign of the commemoration - circumcision "temporal sanctification."

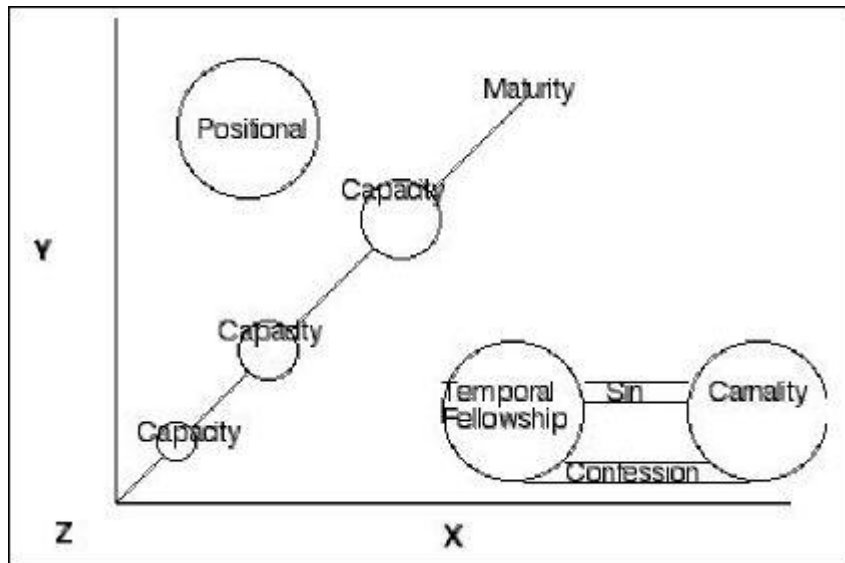
Expanded Translation:

Jam 2:14 Now I want to ask you, my fellow Jewish believers, where is the benefit if a person says, "I have faith and yet this faith lacks inherent power to produce? Can faith without inherent power deliver anyone? As a fact, the answer is a resounding no! "

10. God will not pour blessing upon believers unless they have capacity to enjoy the blessings. Capacity comes from Doctrine cycled in the soul.



11. Let's look at one last chart and then we will close our lesson. This chart most of you, no doubt, have seen before but it clearly shows how Doctrine in the soul of the believer provides capacity for blessing and testing.



End Lesson