



Sermon Preached September 27th 2020  
“Walk in God’s Presence”

### SERMON OUTLINE

Main Idea: Walk before God and be blameless.

I. Walking in the presence of God is about understanding what is being offered. Genesis 17:1-2; Psalm 16:11

II. Walking in the presence of God is the pursuit to be blameless. Genesis 17:1; Psalm 119:18

III. Walking in the presence of God is only done by God’s strength. Genesis 17:6-8

### GETTING STARTED

1. What major point from the sermon stood out to you as particularly helpful? Why?

### DIRECTOR’S CUT

“Circumcision is the Sign and the Means”

God tells Abraham that circumcision is both the sign and the means of covenant keeping. God states, “You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.” (Gen. 17:11) Covenant signs are important because they identify covenant parties. For example, my wedding ring is the sign of the covenant I have with my wife. It is a reminder to myself and others that “I am taken.” However, Abraham’s circumcision is more than a sign of the covenant it was also one of the conditions of the covenant. It was the way that a man kept the covenant. (c.f. Gen 17:14) It is different than my wedding ring. I can remove my wedding ring and still be in covenant with my wife. This was not the case of the Abrahamic Covenant. The absence of the sign meant absence from the covenant. To put it another way, it was the means of covenant keeping.

The physical circumcision of Abraham reveals two important things about the circumcision of the New Covenant.

First, like physical circumcision, heart circumcision is the sign of the New Covenant. (c.f. Deut. 30:6; Ezekiel 36:26; Rom. 2:26-29) Heart circumcision yields the fruit of obedience and is the sign that one is in covenant relationship with God. (c.f. 1 John 4:20)

Second, heart circumcision creates new desires. It creates longings to love God and obey him. (c.f. Deut. 30:6) The new heart and new desires become the means by which God cultivates obedience in us and this obedience leads to our salvation. (c.f. Hebrews 5:9) All of this, of course, is the work of God. God is the only one who can circumcise a heart.

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. If God is the one who circumcises hearts, is it possible to move from a circumcised heart to an uncircumcised heart?
2. Is an uncircumcised heart able to obey God’s commands? In what way(s) does a “new circumcised heart” obey God’s commandments?
3. What did Paul mean when he said, “no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly?” What are the implications of this statement?