

## **Rituals, Rules, and Laws.**

### **1) Who receives the blessing of forgiveness?**

**Romans 4:9** Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. (NIV)

**Galatians 3:6** just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." (NKJ).

### **2) Abraham was counted righteous before the ritual of circumcision was instituted.**

**Romans 4:10** Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! (NIV)

This is a crucial point, and it is clearly seen. Abraham made his decision to follow God at least fourteen years before he was circumcised.

### **3) Abraham received circumcision as a sign or symbol only.**

**Romans 4:11** And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. (NIV)

**Colossians 2:11** In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self-ruled by the flesh<sup>[a]</sup> was put off when you were circumcised by<sup>[b]</sup> Christ, (NIV)

**Colossians 2:12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. (NIV)

## **Faith vs Works**

**Romans 4:12** And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. (NIV)

**Genesis 12:1-4** Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4</sup>So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram *was* seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. (NKJ)