

## Lesson 11 – What Advantage

Previous lesson on the reasons a Hebrew has no excuse to believe that by their birthright they have special advantage. Shot it all down.

Interjection:

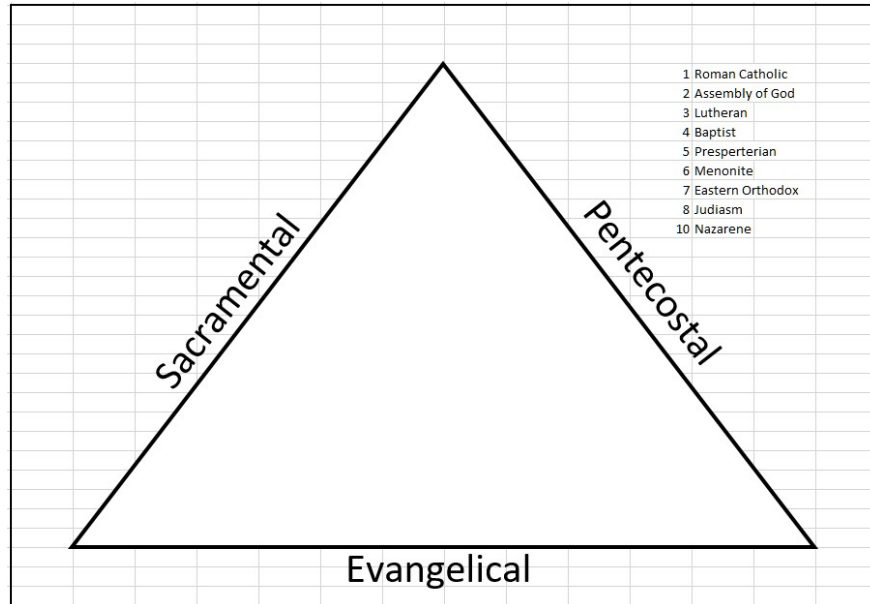
If it is being a Hebrew inwardly that counts, if it is the circumcision of the heart that matters what advantage is there for the Jew to stick to his ethnic and spiritual roots? Why should I circumcise and be circumcised?

If Christianity is a spiritual thing, if it is a heart and love affair, why do I need the church, it's sacraments and the studies of Jesus?

- What is the advantage of church membership?
- What is the advantage of baptism?
- What need do I have for the written Word?

## Romans 3:1-2

1. God's faithfulness is not diminished by man's unfaithfulness as a community
  - a. Just because the nation of Israel was not faithful it did not make God's promises less true
  - b. Just because there are Churches that are not what they should be does not make God's promises less true
  - c. God is preserving Israel and the church because He wants it.
2. God's faithfulness is attested by the sacraments
  - a. Go ahead take the elements of the Lord's supper in your sinfulness it will not diminish the sacrament.
  - b. What do you get when you baptize a sinner? You get a wet sinner.
  - c. They are more than ordinances or rites; they are more than signs.
  - d. The sacraments are seals which proclaim God's faithful promises.
3. God's faithfulness is certified by the very words of God.
  - a. Exceeding and precious promises, that we might be partakers of the divine nature
  - b. Study to show yourself approved, rightly dividing the word of truth.
  - c. His Word is the assurance of God's faithfulness.
4. God's faithfulness is empowered by the Spirit
  - a. Jesus. "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever."
  - b. Pentecost



Evangelical      Characterized by a high regard for Scripture and liturgy (Keepers of the Word)

- Scripture as only authority
- Reading of Scripture
- Scripture declares Grace
- Scripture is a divine testimony in human words
- Scripture is the primary method of communication
- Emphasis on reading, preaching, teaching
- Can be seen as monastic
  - Sacraments seen as idolatry
  - No acceptance movement of the Spirit
  - Susceptible to proof texting every situation
- LIBRARY
- *Without the Word the believer may be swayed easily.*

Sacramental      Characterized by high level of ceremony and use of imagery (Keepers of the Table)

- Lord's Supper
- Baptism
- Church
- Acts of devotion
- Sacraments are the signs of Grace
- Grace is exhibited by the acts of the penitent
- Church is the vehicle of grace through sacramental provision
- May be seen as mysticism
  - The sacrament empowers
  - The Word is not seen as important as the method

- MAGIC
- *Without the Sacraments the church is seen as not important.*

Pentecostal      Characterized by a high level of emphasis on the presence of God (Keepers of the Spirit)

- Life is to be lived in the grace and power of the Holy Spirit
- A conscious and radical dependence of the Spirit in the lives of believers
- A continual revelation of truth to the believer by the Spirit
- Worship is the experience of Grace
- Yearning for an inner power
- May be seen as emotion centered
  - Scripture parceled out as needed to make a point
  - The experience becomes more important than the message
  - Sacraments are seen as only demanded ritual
- MYSTIC
- *Without the Spirit there is little power in belief.*

Without the Word, we will have an atrophied mind that is easily dragged away by the latest winds of false teaching and is vulnerable to forms of faith that are superficial and shallow. Without the sacraments, we will forget the joy of the new birth that baptism declares, while remaining hungry of the fellowship and nourishment that only the Lord's table can provide. Without the Spirit, we will be left with the scraps of man-made religion and struggle to be faithful by our own meager strength.