I. The Importance of the Abrahamic Covenant

<u>Hebrews 11:8</u> By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Hebrews 11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

Hebrews 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

I just love the Bible because it is the very Words of God. It was God's Words that taught Abram to walk before the Lord. Abram's family were Idolaters, (Joshua 24:1-2) but God called Abram out of idolatry and taught him how to walk before God in righteousness, giving him an eternal covenant; thereby teaching us by type, how we should walk in this present world as sojourners, always looking for that city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God. We read how Abram was called out of this world (so are we), (II Corinthians 6:16-18) tested – so are we, sanctified (separating our thoughts, making right decisions), so we need to walk in the Spirit; Abram was justified by faith, so are we, his faith made perfect by his works, so are we;(James 2) commanded to walk before God and be perfect – so are we. (Romans 4:10-12)

The Bible, from beginning to end, teaches us how to walk to please God (<u>Colossians 1:9-23</u>)(don't forget the "if"). God's Word also teaches us how to be his disciple serving Christ instead of sin (<u>John</u> <u>8:31-44</u>; <u>Romans 6:15-22</u>); and to live our lives with the Blessed Hope given to us in His Holy Word (<u>I</u> <u>Peter 1:3-9</u>; <u>Titus 2.11-15</u>)

Last time I made a bold statement: "The Abrahamic Covenant is central to all Scripture". The Abrahamic Covenant is an extension of the first Messianic prophecy in Genesis:

<u>Genesis 3:15</u> And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

We follow that seed through the "seed of Seth" (Genesis 4:25 – 6:1)on to Noah and his three sons, of which all the world was populated after the Flood. We can trace from one of Noah's sons, Shem, and find the seed continues from Shem to Eber, from Eber to Terah, and through one of Terah's sons, Abram. To Abram and his Seed, God gave an eternal covenant. Through this Abrahamic Covenant, we have three major extensions, the first of which, we can trace the Seed through Isaac, Jacob, Judah. Now when we get to King David, we find an important extension, the Davidic Covenant (<u>II Samuel 7</u>). This covenant gives more detail to this Seed establishing an eternal Kingdom. Now we follow the New Covenant extension of the land (Jeremiah 31:29-40), and we can continue to trace this Seed through the Kings of Judah on to a descendant of David, born in the city of David, Jesus Christ, the eternal King with His genealogies in both Matthew and Luke tracing back to David. Now in this King Jesus is given the promise established with Abraham. This Gospel was preached to Abraham, we are told in <u>Galatians 3</u> that all the world would be blessed by Abraham. (<u>Galatians 3.6-22</u>). Verse <u>16</u> tells us that Abraham's Seed is Christ, <u>verse <u>19</u> tells us to that Seed, Christ, is given the promise. Verses 21-29, teach us that by faith in Christ – He is the One given the promise:</u>

<u>Galatians 3:21</u> *Is* the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Galatians 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:29 And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession. **Psalm 2:6-8**

Covenant with Abraham	Covenant Extensions	
Promise of a National Land – (Land) Genesis 12:1-3; <u>13:14-18</u>	Palestinian Covenant – God will give Israel the Law in their heart and permanent restoration to the land forever Deuteronomy 30:3-5; Ezekiel 36:16-38	
Promise of Numerous Descendants – A Great Nation – (Seed) <u>Genesis 12:3</u> ; <u>13:16;17:1-22</u>	Davidic Covenant – David's Seed on the Throne of Israel forever II Samuel 7:1-16; Jeremiah 33:19-26; 31:35-37; Exodus 3:15	
Promise that God will bless the world through Abraham– (World-wide Blessing) Genesis 12:3; 22:1-19	New Covenant – Abraham's Seed blesses the world – No more psychology but complete obedience Jeremiah 31:31-40; Hebrews 8:1-13; Luke 1:26-38; Amos 9:11-15	

hrist and the Gentiles – Scripture with foresight preached the Gospel to Abraha <u>Galatians 3</u> Interprets the Abrahamic Covenant in the New Testament

Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Galatians 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. Galatians 3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Galatians 3:9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

Galatians 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Transition from the Church Age to the Millennium

Third Heaven		Judgment Seat of Christ	Marriage of the Lamb	
Event	Rapture of the Church Also called the "Blessed Hope"	Begins The Lamb Je opens the seals in heaven and the Abo 4 Horses	and his army attacks erusalem king way for oomination of besolation Second Advent with the Wife "Glorious Appearing" Marriage Supper	Fulfillment of the Covenant to Abraham (All Israel Saved) All of Christ's are heirs to Abraham's "Blessing" Promise in the Abrahamic Covenant. The Wife Rules and Reigns with the King of Kings for ever
Earth	Church Age	7 year Tribulation Time of Jacob's Trouble		Millennium

Galatians 3:19 Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. **Romans 8:17**



And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <u>Revelation 21:2</u>

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

II. The Covenant Renewed with a Command

<u>Genesis 17:1</u> And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Genesis 17:2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

In Genesis 16, we will see Hagar and Ismael fleeing from her mistress, Sarai, into the wilderness, where they look upon a very important Angel called by Scripture, the "Angel of the LORD".

The Angel of the LORD (*Malawk Jehoveh, Heb.*) Is a very special Angel in the Old Testament. This "Angel of the LORD" first appeared to Hagar in the wilderness (<u>Genesis 16:7</u>), where He is called: "Thou God that seest me". He also appeared to Abraham on Mount Moriah (<u>Genesis 22:11-17</u>), telling him that he "obeyed His voice". He also appeared to Moses at the burning bush, at the backside of the desert, telling Moses to take off his shoes for this ground was holy ground. (<u>Exodus 3:1-10</u>); and said the same thing as He appeared to Joshua as the "Captain of the LORD's Host" (Joshua 5:1-15). This, of course, is a very similar title also given to the Angel of the LORD, as the captain of the LORD of Hosts armies (also called the Angel of the LORD) in <u>Zechariah 1</u>. He, as the "Angel of God", protected the Israelites at the Red Sea (<u>Exodus 14:19-25</u>), guided the guided them through the wilderness, as well as when they came into Canaan land (<u>Exodus 23:23</u>). Even Balaam's ass saw the Angel of the LORD (<u>Numbers 22:1-41</u>); and the Angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon as he was threshing wheat by the winepress to hide from the Midianites (Judges 6:1-24). The Angel of the LORD also appeared to Elijah the Tishbite in (<u>II Kings 1:1-17</u>). Now this Angel of the LORD is not any ordinary angel.

The Angel of the LORD, is the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ, who declares the Father (John 1:18). He is identified as "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk" and "the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, as well as, "The Angel which redeemed me from all evil" in (Genesis 48:15-16). The angel of the LORD appeared to Caleb and Caleb calls Him "LORD" and "oh my LORD" in Judges 6:11-24. While the Angel of the LORD appears in human form, and in some cases has a slight variation in name, He is obviously Jesus Christ pre-incarnate. To Hagar; He is called "LORD" in <u>Genesis 16:11</u>; and again to Hagar, <u>Genesis 21:1-21</u>, where he commands, "Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for <u>I will make him a great nation</u>". No ordinary angel. In this Passage, The Angel of the LORD is referred to as "God" in verse <u>12</u>, and the "Angel of God" in verse <u>17</u>.

The knowledge of who the Angel of the LORD is will help us to properly interpret chapter 16 and 17. Sarai makes a suggestion to Abram

<u>Genesis 16:1</u> Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name *was* Hagar.

Genesis 16:2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

Genesis 16:3 And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

Abram takes action without consulting God – Remember in Egypt?

<u>Genesis 16:4</u> And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

Sarai and Hagar

<u>Genesis 16:5</u> And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong *be* upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.

Genesis 16:6 But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid *is* in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.

Hagar meets the "Angel of the Lord"

<u>Genesis 16:7</u> And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.

Genesis 16:8 And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.

Genesis 16:9 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

Genesis 16:10 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.

The Angel of the LORD Prophesies to Hagar

<u>Genesis 16:11</u> And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.

Genesis 16:12 And he will be a wild man; his hand *will be* against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

Genesis 16:13 And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

Genesis 16:14 Wherefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, *it is* between Kadesh and Bered. **Genesis 16:15** And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.

Abram's Age when Ismael was born

Genesis 16:16 And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

The Holy Spirit's Interpretation of this Passage for the Church Age

<u>Galatians 4:1</u> Now I say, *That* the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

Galatians 4:2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. **Galatians 4:3** Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Galatians 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Galatians 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Galatians 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Galatians 4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

Galatians 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Galatians 4:10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

Galatians 4:11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

Galatians 4:12 Brethren, I beseech you, be as I *am*; for I *am* as ye *are*: ye have not injured me at all. **Galatians 4:13** Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.

Galatians 4:14 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.

Galatians 4:15 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if *it had been* possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

Galatians 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Galatians 4:17 They zealously affect you, *but* not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.

Galatians 4:18 But *it is* good to be zealously affected always in *a* good *thing*, and not only when I am present with you.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, **Galatians 4:20** I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

Galatians 4:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?

Galatians 4:22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.

Galatians 4:23 But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman *was* by promise.

Galatians 4:24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

Galatians 4:25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

Galatians 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Galatians 4:27 For it is written, Rejoice, *thou* barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

Galatians 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Galatians 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is* now.

Galatians 4:30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

Galatians 4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

Abraham's Part – To participate in God's unconditional Covenant one must OBEY

<u>Genesis 17:1</u> And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Genesis 17:2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. **Abraham falls on his face**

Genesis 17:3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

God establishes His Covenant with Abraham – God has foreknowledge not man

<u>Genesis 17:4</u> As for me, behold, my covenant *is* with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. **Genesis 17:5** Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

Genesis 17:6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

Genesis 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Genesis 17:8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

God demands the covenant to be kept and explains the token of the Covenant

<u>Genesis 17:9</u> And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

Genesis 17:10 This *is* my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

Genesis 17:11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

Genesis 17:12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which *is* not of thy seed.

Genesis 17:13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

Genesis 17:14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

Genesis 17:15 And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah *shall* her name *be*.

Genesis 17:16 And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be *a mother* of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

Genesis 17:17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall *a child* be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? **God's Word Concerning Isaac and Ismael**

Genesis 17:18 And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

Genesis 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his seed after him. **Genesis 17:20** And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

Genesis 17:21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

Abraham Obeys God – The Same must happen if we want to participate in the LORD's Covenant Genesis 17:22 And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

Genesis 17:23 And Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all that were born in his house, and all that were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house; and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the selfsame day, as God had said unto him.

Genesis 17:24 And Abraham *was* ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Genesis 17:25 And Ishmael his son *was* thirteen years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Genesis 17:26 In the selfsame day was Abraham circumcised, and Ishmael his son.

Genesis 17:27 And all the men of his house, born in the house, and bought with money of the stranger, were circumcised with him.

<u>Colossians 2:9-12</u>. "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are **circumcised with the circumcision made without hands**, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the **faith of the operation of God**, who hath raised him from the dead."

Galatians 3:8, 9 "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.".

More about circumcision from the New Testament

<u>Romans 2:25</u> For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

Romans 2:26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?

Romans 2:27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?

Romans 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

Romans 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Circumcision of the heart has nothing to do with the deeds of the Law

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Romans 3:26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 3:27 Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Romans 3:29 *Is he* the God of the Jews only? *is he* not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: **Romans 3:30** Seeing *it is* one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

Justification is not only through believing – There also needs to be action

<u>James 2:14</u> What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

James 2:15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

James 2:16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled;

notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? **James 2:17** Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

James 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

James 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

He received the Sign of Circumcision", "A seal of Righteousness", before he was circumcised <u>Romans 4:11</u> And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

Those that "Walk in His Steps"

<u>Romans 4:12</u> And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. The Circumcision made without Hands

<u>Galatians 5:6</u> For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

<u>Galatians 6:15</u> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Ephesians 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; **Philippians 3:3** For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

<u>Colossians 2:11</u> In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

<u>Colossians 3:11</u> Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.