

## **Lent Day 6**

Tuesday March 7, 2017

**Reading:** [Romans 2:17-29](#)

### **Reflection**

I don't know why, but when I was a kid my brother and I used to say, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, or all of the people all of the time, but you can't fool mom!" Mom's have an uncanny knack of knowing things you don't want them to know. To the rest of the world you look perfectly innocent, but those laser eyes know better!

Something similar is going on in our passage here. There is an approach to religion which is just outward — it doesn't impact the heart. This was God's criticism of his people long ago when he said through his prophet that sacrifice without justice is a waste. We may be able to fool the people around us with our holier than thou behaviour, but we can't fool God.

It's not like we are trying to fool anyone though. Really we go through the motions because we have been taught we should, or we want transformation and we believe this will work. So, Let always runs the risk of just being something we do, or don't do if we 'give something up for it'. And, it's not like if we have this circumcision of the heart we won't be doing outward religious things — we will.

The difference is dependence. Do we consider these religious things the basis on which God will accept us? If so, that's law and that leaves us condemned, because we cannot do it perfectly. Or, do we depend on God to justify us, and because he has done so in Christ our lives are now obedient to him as a result? If so, then we are saved and blessed. That is what it means to have our hearts circumcised rather than merely our bodies.

If you want to this Lent, you can fool some of the people some of the time, or all of the people all of the time, but you can't fool God. Allow him to circumcise your heart and on doing this you will receive his praise.

### **Prayer**

Thank you Holy Spirit for making a heart change in us, so we can love God and neighbour.  
Thank you Lord for producing in us the condition which you praise. Amen.