

**Sermon Notes – March 18, 2018**  
**The Mark (*Joshua 5:1-9*)**

Following the memorial signs of rock-piles to commemorate the crossing of the Jordan into the Promised Land, God commands Joshua to institute once again the covenantal promise of God: Circumcision. Once again the book of Joshua serves as a bridge from the books of Moses to our time as New Testament Christians.

- I. The national sign of the Jewish people
  - A. The covenant of circumcision. (Acts 7:8)
    1. Given by God to Abraham. (Genesis 17:9-14)
    2. Given by God as an external sign of national blessing.
      - a. Ishmael along with the servants were circumcised. (Genesis 17:23-25)
      - b. Isaac was circumcised. (Genesis 21:4)
    3. Given by Joshua as an external sign of identification.
      - a. Prepared for service and leadership.
        1. Moses (Exodus 4:24-26) b.
  - B. Forgiveness of a sinful past.
    1. Gilgal: Rolled away the reproach.
- II. The spiritual sign of saved people.
  - A. The inward sign of regeneration. (born again)
    1. The circumcision of the heart. (Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4; Romans 2:29)
    2. The justification by faith. (Romans 3)
      - a. All who believe.
    3. The obedience of faith. (Romans 4)
      - a. Abraham believed God when uncircumcised.
  - B. The outward sign of the inward reality.
    1. Baptized in Christ by the power of the resurrection. (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:11,12)
    2. Confident in Christ by the work of salvation. (Philippians 1:6,3:3)
    3. Initiated into the body of Christ by immersion.
      - a. Following the circumcision of the heart.
      - b. Following the example of Jesus. (Matthew 3:13-17)(Acts 2:37-41)