

## **February Devotion**

### **ABIDING IN TRADITION OR ABIDING IN GOD:**

**Romans 2:26,29**

**If those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised?**

**But he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the spirit, not by the letter, and his praise is not from men, but from God.**

#### **Thoughts for Today:**

**I only wear my wedding ring when my bride and I go out on a date or vacation. By not wearing my wedding ring, do you think I ceased abiding in marriage? Does my not wearing a wedding ring negate my marriage vows? Of course not. (I am native American and It's a white man's tradition anyway.) My wedding ring is only a symbol of the commitment I made to my bride to abide by -- a representation of my promise -- before God.**

**The same is true of circumcision. Paul is basically making the point that although circumcision should mean something, the lack of a physical circumcision wouldn't necessarily indicate a man did not follow (abide in ) the law anymore than not wearing my wedding ring meant I was no longer married. In other words, the symbol means less than a person's conduct.**

#### **Questions to Ponder:**

**If someone saw you without your wedding ring (or spouse) would they know you were married? Is your conduct abided in conformity to your promise -- regardless of the symbols? If you didn't tell someone you were a Christian -- would they know? How so -- by your language, compassion, generosity, etc? Where do you abide in your thought, speech, and deeds? What does your conduct reflect? Could it be adjusted somewhat?**

#### **FOLLOW: pow-wow theme**

**To go after; to move behind; to succeed (in a post); to adhere to a (belief, remain loyal); vocation (divine call to religious career; profession; or occupation); to watch after; to pursue; to occur as a consequence (to take place as a result or effort).**

**Following is not Follow! FOLLOWING: one who comes after; a coming next after;**

#### **ABIDE: 2011 Commander's Character Trait (distinguishing quality)**

**To stay; reside; continue firm or stable; remain; to tolerate; bear (endure, go in an indicated direction); last (continue in existence or operation).**