
Studies in the Book of James

Faith works 2:14-26

Lesson #6, Sunday, February 10, 2019

I. Review

1. What example does James use to illustrate how they could show partiality? (2-3)
2. How serious is the problem of showing partiality?

II. Exercises

1. Read verses 14-26 and answer the following questions:
 1. How many times does James use the word, “faith” in verses 14-26?
 2. How many times does James use the word, “works” in verses 14-26?
2. List the questions that James asks.
3. List the arguments that James makes to prove that faith must work to save.
 1. 2:15-17
 2. 2:18-20
 3. 2:21-24
 4. 2:25
 5. 2:26
4. Summarize what James is teaching.

III. Confusion concerning what James teaches

1. You would think that everyone would accept James’ teaching concerning faith and works but many do not.

IV. Why do many religious people reject James' teaching concerning works?

1. Because some believe that James' teaching contradicts Paul's teaching.

1. What they fail to understand is that Paul is teaching that salvation does NOT come by the works of the Law of Moses. While James is teaching that "works" express our faith!
2. Paul is teaching that one cannot be saved by works of the law, he teaches just as James does that saving faith obeys. (Rom. 1:5, 16:26)

2. Because some believe that works nullify grace

1. They believe that salvation is solely by grace and if you do anything to bring about salvation, it nullifies grace.
2. This is the main reason why they object to the necessity of baptism for the remission of sins. They consider baptism a work. It is a work of faith that DOES NOT nullify grace. (Eph. 2:8-10; c.f. Acts 19:1-5)

3. Because many views on salvation eliminate works

1. False ways to be saved

a) Intellectual belief only salvation

- (1) Many teach that one is saved by belief only or at the point when one believes that Jesus is the Christ. Luther went so far as to add "only" to faith in his translation of Rom. 5:1.

b) Faith given as a gift salvation

- (1) Others teach that faith is a supernatural gift. They teach that man is totally depraved and cannot respond to the gospel until the Holy Spirit operates on his heart enabling him to repent. He is then given faith and the personal righteousness of Christ is imputed to him, thereby saving him for all eternity regardless of what he does.

c) Works only salvation

- (1) Works only salvation is salvation by being morally good or by having more good works than bad or doing works of penance to redeem oneself.

d) Checklist salvation

- (1) Checklist salvation is salvation by just checking off a list of things that one has done or is doing i.e. attending, giving, being good, etc., with no thought of depending upon Christ to save them. It amounts to salvation by works without faith.

2. The true way to be saved

- a) **One is saved by faith in Christ that includes belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, trusting Him for salvation and obeying His will.**

V. Other passages teaching the importance of doing good works

1. Mt. 25:31-46
2. Eph. 2:10
3. Titus 2:14