

INTRODUCTION: OUR WORKS & OUR JUSTIFICATION

A. POINT: INSEPARABLE (2:18)

B. RIDDLE: RELATIONSHIP (2:21,24,25; see Rom.3:20,28; Gal.2:16(v.9,10!))

I. BIBLE: JAMES 2:14-26

A. FOCUS: FAITH (2:14,17,18,20,22,23(*Rom.4:3*))24,26; see 1:3,6; 2:1,5; 5:15; see Rom.3:20,28; Gal.2:16)

B. ERROR: FAITH WITHOUT WORKS (2:14,17,18,20,(22),24,26; words only; 2:14,16,19; Mt.18:16)

C. CORRECTION: FAITH THAT WORKS (2:22(21,23; Gen.15,22) /21,24,25 /1:19-27 |Gal.5:6; 1Th1:3; 2Th1:11)

D. JUSTIFICATION: DECLARED RIGHTEOUS (2:24; e.g.,21,25; see Dt.25:1)

1. Paul: by God through faith (Rom.3:20; see Gen.15:6)

2. James: to men through works (2:18(3:13),22; see Gen.22:1f; see Mt.5:16; 1Pt.2:12; Lk.16:15)

II. DOCTRINE: JUSTIFIED BY WORKS (see Jms.2:21,24,25)

A. LAW (Jms.2:21f,25; see Gen.15,22; Josh.2; Heb.11:8f,31)

B. PROPHETS (Is.1:15f; 58:2f,6f; Jer.4:14,18; Amos 5:21-24)

C. PSALMS (Ps.106:31; see Num.25:6-13; see Ps.143:10)

D. GOSPELS (Mt.7:15-27; see *friend*; Jms.2:23b; Jn.15:14)

E. PAUL

1. Rom.3:20,24 & 2:7,10; 6:1f,18; 8:2f; 12:1f; Gal.2:16; 3:2f; 5:4 & 5:6f,13f; 6:9,10; Eph.2:5-8 & 10

2. 1Th.1:3; 2Th.1:11; 3:13; 1Tm.6:18; 2Tm.3:17; Tt.1:1; 2:1 & 1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1,8,14

F. LETTERS (Heb.11:1f; 4,7,8,17,23,32; 13:16; Rev.2:5)

G. CHURCH

1. justified by faith alone and the faith which alone justifies is never alone

2. the man is justified (by God) through faith; faith is justified (to men) through works

3. justification (declared righteous): appointed, accomplished, applied; means, result, goal

4. Paul//James: legal//practical; objective//subjective; in heaven//on earth; in God's sight//in man's sight;
vs. self-righteous//vs. un-righteous

H. THE WORKS OF CHRIST IN HIS BODY

1. He *accomplished* perfect righteousness in His body (Mt3:15; Jn19:30; Rom10:4; Phil.2:5-8; Heb5:8f; 7:26f)

2. He does *His works* through us (Eph.4:12-16; see 1Cor.12)

3. We do *His works* in Him (Jn.15:4f; Phil.2:12,13; see Eph.2:10)

III. PRACTICE: SHOW & TELL (Jms.2:18,22,24&14,16,18,19,23)

A. TELL: TURN FROM TRUSTING IDOLS TO CONFESSING JESUS (Jms.2:23(Gen.15:5), 14f; Rom.10:8f; see 1Th.1:9; Mk.4:19; 1Jn.2:16)

B. SHOW: TURN FROM YOUR IMMORALITIES AND DO GOOD (Jms.2:18f; 21,25(Gen.22; Josh.2))

1. give your most prized possessions into the hand of God (Jms.2:21(Gen.22); Lk.15:12f; Heb.11:17f; see Mt.16:24; 19:22,27)

2. be zealous for good works (Jms.2:25(Josh.2); 1:22-27; 2:1f; see Tt.2,3)

3. forgive as forgiven & give as given (Mt.6:12f & 1Tm.6:17f; Eph.4:28; 1Pt.4:10)

C. SUMMARY: SAVING FAITH WORKS! (Jms.2:14-26; 1:22-27; see Rom.6-8; 12-16; Gal.5,6; Eph.2:1-10; 1Th.1:3; 2Th.1:11; Tt.2,3)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

For further study: See *The Westminster Confession of Faith* on *Saving Faith* (chp. 14) and *Good Works* (chp. 16)

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What is the main theme in James 2:14-26?
4. What is James's main point about faith?
5. What is the *riddle* (apparent contradiction) between James & Paul? What is the *answer* to this riddle?
6. How does Paul use the word "justification" (i.e., "declared righteous")? How does James use it?
7. What references on the theme of "justified by works" (section II) are most significant to you? Why?
8. Which aphorism (II,G) is most helpful to you? Why? Do you know any other aphorisms on this theme? How are they helpful to you?
9. When we do good (i.e., obey God), does this add to Christ's righteousness given to us through faith? Why or why not? (see Eph.2:10)
10. Do you trust Christ to forgive your sins and give you His righteousness? (Rom.10:8f; see 2Cor.5:21) Why or why not? Have you professed your faith publicly and been baptized? (see Mt.28:18-20) Why or why not?
11. Does your faith have works? How so? Are you "zealous for good works"? (Tt.2:14) How can you grow in "faith working" (see Gal.5:6)?
12. How is this theme evident in the *teaching* of Jesus? (see Mt.7:15-27) How is it evident in the *works* of Jesus? (see Jn.6:11f & 35f; 9:5f & 7)