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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **James 2:14** (NET)

*What good is it,
my brothers and sisters,
if someone claims*

*to have **faith***

but does not

*have **works**?*

Can this kind of faith

save him?

- The book of James is about **"Faith in Action."**
- James teaches that faith without works **is dead.**
- Saving faith demands **works.**

- Paul affirms that
we are saved
by faith.
- James declared that
we are justified
"by works."
- This is no contradiction.
 - This simply mean that
we are justified by both
faith and works.

- It is often argued that Paul and James **are at odds** regarding **“faith”** and **“works”**.
 - But such is **not the case.**
 - It only takes **an open mind** to reach this conclusion.

- What did Paul say about **faith** and **works**?
- ***"For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law" (Romans 3:28).***
 - ***"A man is not justified by works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ." (Galatians 2:16).***
 - It is often argued that James is not simply differing from Paul **but is flatly contradicting him.**

- James' teaching is taught through out the New Testament.
- It was the preaching of John the Baptizer that men should prove the reality of their repentance by doing WHAT?

- **Matthew 3:7-8**

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them,

“You offspring of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”

- **3:8 Therefore produce fruit that proves your repentance,**

- Let it be noted that Paul never fails to mention that **obedience is required.**

- **Romans 2:6**

He will reward each one according to his works:

- **Romans 14:12**

”Each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

- **Romans 13:12**

“let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”

- **1 Corinthians 3:8**

and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

- **2 Corinthians 5:10**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, whether it be good or bad.

- **At a casual reading it appears**
that James is at
variance with Paul.
- What we have here is two men
emphasizing
two different aspect of Christianity.
- Paul's main emphasis is upon
grace and **faith**
- James' upon **action** and **works**.
- **James is not condemning Paul's work**
 - **But a perversion of it.**

- Paul's position is "Believe *in the Lord Jesus* *and you will be* saved" (**Acts 16:31**).
- The significance we attach to this demand will entirely depend on the meaning we attach to believe.
 - There are two kinds of belief.

- **# 1 There is a intellectual belief.**

- I believe there was
a man named

- **Abraham Lincoln**

- But that does
not affect my daily life.

- So I go on living.

- **# 2 There is a factual belief.**

- I believe that **five** and **five**
make ten.

- And that does
affect my life
and my
business transactions.

- What James is arguing against is the first kind of belief,
- The acceptance of a fact without allowing it to have any influence upon life.

- The devils are intellectually convinced of **the existence of God.**
(**James 2:19**)
- **They tremble before him.**
 - But their belief **does not alter them** in the slightest.
- What Paul and James held to was **the second kind of belief.**
 - To believe **and act upon it.**

- However there is still **a difference** between **James** and **Paul**
 - They begin at **different times** in the Christian life.

- Paul begins at the very beginning.
- He insists that no man can ever earn the forgiveness of God.
 - “Forgiveness” is the free grace of God.
- No man can earn that.
- No matter how many good works he may do.

- James begins much later with the professing Christian.

- One who has received God's free gift of Divine grace.

- Must now live a new life for he is a new creature.

- A fact on which Paul and James totally agree.

- The difference between James and Paul **is a difference of starting-point.**

- Paul starts with the great basic fact of **the forgiveness of God** which no man can earn or deserve;

- James starts **after that forgiveness** and insists that a man must prove his Christianity by his deeds.

- We are not saved by deeds;
- We are saved for deeds.
- These are the twin truths of the Christian life.
- They do not contradict but complement each other.

- One of the great **tragedies of life** is the fact that so many have failed to find **a balanced view of** human redemption as this concept is set forth in the biblical record.

- **Martin Luther's obsession** with his "**faith only**" doctrine led him to **alter** the text of **Romans 3:28** so that his translation read:
 - “[A] ***man is justified by faith only.***”
 - Luther rejected the book of James due to the inspired writer's affirmation that ***“faith apart from works is dead.”*** (**James 2:24**)

- Martin Luther called the book of James a “**straw letter**”.
- The careful Bible student must recognize that there are **different kinds of works** addressed in the divine record.

- **(1) Jesus was teaching in the city of Capernaum.**

- The crowds so pressed around him that some who sought his presence could not gain access to the Lord.
- Four enterprising men brought a lame friend, climbed to the rooftop of the house wherein Christ was teaching, and lowered their impotent companion through the ceiling.
 - ***“And Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, your sins are forgiven”***
(Mark 2:5).

- What did Christ see?
 - He saw the action of these men
 - And that action is called faith.
 - James 2:18:
“Show me
your faith
apart from your works,
and I by my works
will show you my faith”

- (2) **John 3:16**

is perhaps the best-known verse
in the Bible.

- But it is one of the most
misunderstood:

- ***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believs on him should not perish, but have eternal life.”***

- Does the “**belief**” of this passage **include** obedience, or **exclude** it?
 - In **John 3:16,** believing results in eternal life.
 - In **Hebrews 5:9,** eternal salvation is based on **obedience to Christ.**
 - True faith is **not just** a mental process.

- (3) Note this declaration from the Lord:
- “*He that believes on the Son has eternal life;*
- *but he that obeys not the Son shall not see life,*
- *but the wrath of God abides on him”*
(John 3:36, ASV).

- In this passage
“believing”
is set in
vivid contrast to
disobedience.
- Jesus is not just
suggesting it.
 - He is
demanding it.

- Observe a similar usage in

Acts 14:1-2:

“A great multitude both of Jews and of Greeks believed.

- ***But the Jews that were disobedient***

stirred up the souls of the Gentiles, and made them evil affected against the brethren.”

- Was this just a **mental stir?**

- In the book of Hebrews we learn that many rebellious Israelites **died in the wilderness.**
 - Because they were “**disobedient**”
 - And they were not allowed to enter the promised land due to their “**unbelief**” (**Hebrews 3:18-19**).
 - Was their “**unbelief**” **a mere mental attitude?**

- The Bible knows nothing of true faith that is separate from obedience.

- (4) The Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas:
- “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*”
 - Paul and Silas proclaimed to him the gospel.
- And what followed?
(**Acts 16:31-33**).

- **Acts 16:30-34**

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

- **16:31** They replied, “**Believe** in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved,…”
 - **16:32** **Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him,**…
- **16:33** At that hour of the night he took them and **washed their wounds;**
 - then he and all his family were **baptized** right away.
- **16:34** The jailer brought them into his house **and set food before them,** and he rejoiced greatly...

- (5) The book of Romans demonstrates that faith is an action term.
 - For example, Paul commends the “faith” of these Roman saints, which, says he, is “proclaimed throughout the whole world” (Romans 1:8).
 - How does one see “FAITH” apart from works?

- Faith and obedience run parallel in Romans.
 - In Romans 10:16, those who refused to “obey the gospel” fulfilled Isaiah’s prediction that some would not “believe”.
(Isaiah 53:1)
 - If believing is only a mental activity how did Paul know?

- (6) That the “faith” system of the New Testament is not merely a mental process is evidenced by Galatians 3:26-27.
 - There Paul declares:
“***For you are all sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus.***”
 - How was that “FAITH” demonstrated?
 - “Baptism”
(Galatians 3:27)

- **John 6:28**

*Then said they unto him,
What shall
we do,
that we might work
the works of God?*

- **6:29** *Jesus answered and said...*

This is the work of God,
*that you believe on him
whom he hath sent.*

- To “**DO**”
something
is a work !!!

- If “works” are excluded from the plan of salvation,
- faith itself would be eliminated, for Jesus identified “FAITH” as a work.

- **In Romans 6:23,**

Paul writes:

*“For the wages of sin
is death;*

- *but the free gift of God
is eternal life in Christ
Jesus our Lord”.*

- It is sometimes assumed, by well-meaning people,
- Though mistaken people,
 - That because salvation is an unmerited “gift,”
 - There is nothing to be done in order to obtain remission of sins.
- Jesus himself once said:

- ***“Not everyone that says unto me,
Lord, Lord,
shall enter into the
kingdom of heaven;***
 - ***but he who does
the will of my Father
who is in heaven”***
(Matthew 7:21).

- (7) James shows the connection between faith and obedience when he writes:
 - ***“Was not Abraham our father justified by works [obedience], in that he offered up Isaac his son upon the altar?
(James 2:21)***

- ***And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God”***
(James 2:21-23).

- Was this a **faith only** act ?
- Or was **obedience** involved?

- If faith plus obedience constitutes one as a “friend of God,”
- How would one be characterized who has faith minus obedience?

- (8) That faith alone is invalid as a means of redemption is revealed by a number of biblical examples.

- There were many Jews
who

“believed on Christ”

(John 8:30-31),

But Jesus described them
as

“children of the devil”.

(John 8:44).

- **John 12:42**

“Even among the rulers many believed in him, but because of the Pharisees they would not confess Jesus to be the Christ, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue.

- **12:43** *For they loved praise from men more than praise from God.*

- Will anyone contend that these rulers were saved simply because they “believed”?

James 2:26

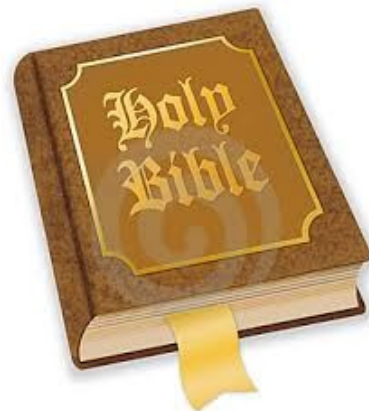
**For just as the body
without the spirit
is dead,
so also faith
without works
is dead.**

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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