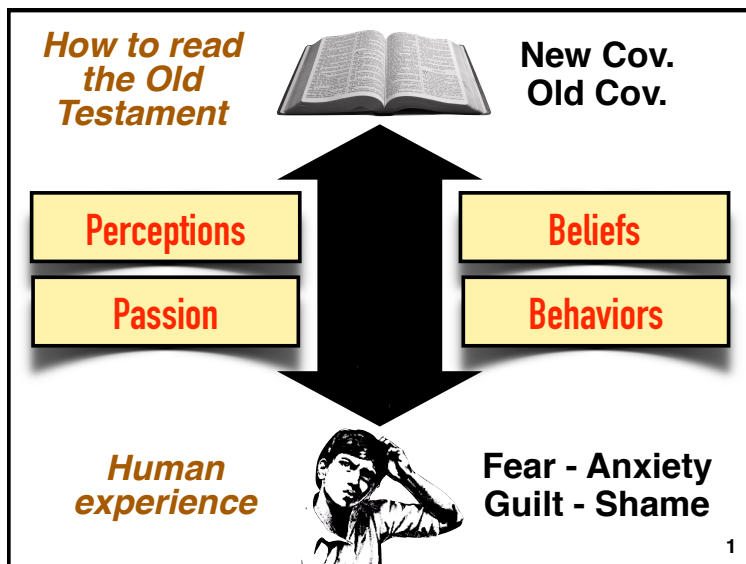


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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*James 2:14-26
Lesson #32
James and Paul
09/01/2019*



Perception - seeing the big picture.

Commitment - making a choice to believe.

Investment - getting skin (action) in the game.

Passion - let your heart follow your investment.

2

How to read the Old Testament

Faith and Works

3

**Jesus loves me, this I doubt,
for my sins he has found out.
Perfect ones to him belong.
He hates the weak
and loves the strong.**

**Does Jesus love me?
Does Jesus love me?
Does Jesus love me?
I fear the answers NO!**

4

Paul clearly teaches us that we are justified (saved) by grace through faith

NOT BY WORKS.

Ephesians 2

“8 For by grace you have been **saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 **not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

5

But is this consistent with the broader Biblical teaching?

Consider these five facts:

1. The Law of **Moses** (O.T.)
2. The teaching of **Jesus**
3. The basis of the **final judgment**
4. The **Holy Spirit** power to fulfill the Law through us
5. Faith **working** through love



6

Matthew 19

“¹⁶ And behold, one came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?” ¹⁷ And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; **but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.**””

*Jesus rightly understands that fulfilling the demands of the Law is **necessary** for eternal life*

*This was not good news then nor now until we get to **the Gospel preached about Jesus by Paul.***

7

Saved by Faith or Works James and Paul

James
2:14-26

8

James 2

“¹⁴ **What use is it**, my brethren, **if a man says** he has faith, but he has no **works**? Can that faith **save** him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? ¹⁷ **Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.**”

Principle #1

Faith without action is **USELESS** with respect to our **ministry**.

9

Principle #1

Faith without action is **USELESS** with respect to our **ministry**.

“What use is it”

James is looking at faith in a temporal practical sense.

“if a man says he has faith”

James is looking at the claim to faith (talking the talk). **Faith can only be seen in its works.**

“but he has no works?”

Think of James’ use of “works” as “deeds or action”, which is the more common meaning.

10

“Can *that* faith save him?” James is clearly stating that we are saved by works.

The question is “saved from what?”

“¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, **what use is that?** ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.”

The context of the word “saved” in James is not “eternal life” but “temporal life.”

1 Timothy 3:15

“But women shall be **preserved (saved)** through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.”

11

1 Corinthians 3

“¹⁰ . . . I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. . . . ¹⁴ If any man’s work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man’s work is **burned up**, he shall **suffer loss**; but he himself **shall be saved**, yet so as through fire. ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If any man destroys the temple of God, God will **destroy** him,”

Here we see a person who is “**saved**” in the life to come but “**destroyed**” (not saved) in this life.

12

James 2

“¹⁸ But someone may well say, “You have faith, and I have works; **show me** your faith without the works, and **I will show you** my faith by my works.”
¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works **is useless**?”

Principle #2

Faith without action is **UNSEEN** with respect to our **witness**.

13

Principle #2

Faith without action is **UNSEEN** with respect to our **witness**.

“show me . . . and I will show you”
James is looking at faith as it is seen by man (by action) not God (who looks at the heart).

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light **shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works**, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

14

James 2

“²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ **and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,”** and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ **You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.** ²⁵ And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For **just as the body without the spirit is dead**, so also faith without works is dead.”

Principle #3

Faith without action is **UNFULFILLED** with respect to our **calling**.

15

Principle #3

Faith without action is **UNFULFILLED** with respect to our **calling**.

“²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.”

- Paul refers to justification before God.
- James is looking at justification before man.

Romans 4:2-3

“For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; **but not before God**. For what does the Scripture say? ‘And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’”

16

“²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was **perfected**; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “*And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,*” and he was called the friend of God.”

“perfected” (literally “matured”)

The point of vs.22 is not the substantiation of faith but the maturation of faith as in Eph.2.

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

17

"²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was **perfected**; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God."

Abraham is declared
to be justified by faith in
Gen. 15

A private declaration

Paul's point

Abraham's faith is
perfected and fulfilled in
Gen. 22

A public display

James' point

18

"²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead."

- Faith alone justifies us before God (as Paul teaches) and **inspires** sanctified behavior.
- The N.T. epistles **exhort** those who are securely justified by faith to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling".

Ephesians 4:1

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, **entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling** with which you have been called."

19

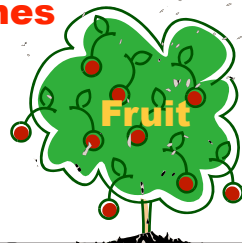
That which is of
use in saving us
in this life.

That which
justifies before
man.

That which
saves us in the
life to come.

That which
justifies before
God.

James



Faith



Paul

20

Don't confuse the ministry of the Son
with the ministry of the Spirit.

Surrogate
(Substitute)

Redemption,
Reconciliation,
Satisfaction

before God



Paraclete
(Enabler)

Assurance,
Usefulness,
Fulfillment

before man



21

True Faith

Yes

Yes

Justifies
before God

Faith alone
saves apart
from works

that it normally produces.

Produces
Fruit of the
Spirit

- inner change
- outer deeds

22

Principle #1 James 2:14-17

Faith without action is **USELESS**
with respect to our **ministry**.

Principle #2 James 2:18-20

Faith without action is **UNSEEN**
with respect to our **witness**.

Principle #3 James 2:21-26

Faith without action is **UNFULFILLED**
with respect to our **calling**.

23

What is the point of all this?

- **Works are the fruit of true faith** but not for justification (salvation) before God.
- **Saving faith is not only a ticket to God's heavenly kingdom** but also a call to a life of significance in God's earthly kingdom.
- **Mixing the Old & New Covenants** may do injustice to both God's holiness and grace.
- **Saving faith cannot be reduced** to a confession, a feeling, or an ethic nor can it be mature without them.

24

1 Peter 3

“¹³ Who is there to harm you if you prove **zealous for what is good**? ¹⁴ But even if you should **suffer for the sake of righteousness**, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to **everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you**, yet with gentleness and reverence;”

Good Works will not save your soul but they will save you from a wasted life.

25