

TITLE: James (Lesson 12)

TEXT: James 2:14-17

INTRO: "We are justified by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone." *Reformed*

I. (vs. 14) What part does *faith* have in our salvation?

A. Why do we need salvation?

1. Each of us is born spiritually dead.

NOTE: Ps. 51:5; Eph. 2:1-3

2. We are separated from God and dominated by sin.

NOTE: Rom. 7:5 Theologians refer to this as *total depravity*.

3. We are unrighteous in every facet of our being.

NOTE: Sin corrupts our speech, actions, relationships, purposes, thinking processes, conscience, etc. We are bankrupt without God, leaving us in spiritual stupidity worshipping idols. Ps. 36:1-4; Rom. 3:9-18

4. We are unable to save ourselves and already condemned.

NOTE: Rom. 3:19-20; John 3:17-18

B. Salvation is the result of placing our *faith* in the Person and work of Christ.

1. Jesus as God took upon Himself the form of a *righteous* man.

2. Jesus by dying on the cross paid the penalty for our sin.

3. Having paid for our *unrighteousness*, Jesus offers us His *righteousness*!

NOTE: 2 Cor. 5:17-21 Justification comes by trusting in Jesus and His righteousness. Paul emphasized that *works* cannot save. We are saved by God's grace! Rom. 3:20-28

II. Faith is the conduit that leads us to Christ.

A. Faith is trusting in Jesus and His righteousness to reconcile us to God.

B. Faith is not a work but is rather a *gift*.

NOTE: Eph. 2:8-9 If salvation can be earned by works then God would owe us a debt. Grace and mercy are extended to us because we don't deserve it.

C. We must come to Christ totally dependant upon Him to save.

III. Genuine faith is evidenced by works.

A. A man may say he has faith when he really doesn't.

1. A dead faith is *profession* without *possession*.

B. Saving faith will produce good works.

NOTE: Eph. 2:10 Words of compassion without *acts* of compassion.

C. Is there a controversy between Paul and James about faith? No.

NOTE: Whereas Paul is teaching us how to be saved, James is instructing us how to live after we are saved. The need was *discerned* and quickly *dismissed*.

CONCLUSION: "Though our good works add no merit to our faith before God, and though the sole condition of our justification is our faith in Christ, if good works do not follow from our profession of faith, it is a clear indication that we do not possess justifying faith."  
*The Reformation Study Bible*