

James 2:14-19
Faith Works, Part One

Re-Read:

Re-read this section of James (2:14-26). How does James' argument relate to the preceding section from last week? Chapter one? How is this section the heart of the entire letter?

Review:

Outline from Sunday's Sermon

- I. Premise (vv. 14, 17)
- II. Picture (vv. 15-16)
- III. Propositions (vv. 18-19)

Respond:

- 1) Pastor John introduced this section of James as a passage of the Bible that has a lot of "potholes" we could fall into. The statement "faith works" suggests (on the surface) a lot of unbiblical ideas of salvation. What are some of the potential potholes you can think about?
- 2) James' teaching here is in "diatribe" format where he is on the attack. When do you think it is appropriate for the church to be in "attack mode" like James?
- 3) James is often pitted against the Apostle Paul and his grace based understanding of the gospel. See Ephesians 2:8-10. How do Paul and James say something very similar?
- 4) Pastor John laid out seven "grade beams" to keep the structure of our thinking biblical. Which are proving themselves meaningful in your life right now? Why? They are:
 - a) Salvation is always by grace alone.
 - b) Justification (from a technical perspective) means to be "declared righteous."
 - c) Salvation does not mean that a struggle with sin is over.
 - d) Sanctification is God's work in the believer.
 - e) Justification and sanctification are separate works of God, but inseparable.
 - f) Believers in Christ are eternally secure in Christ.
 - g) Believers may lack assurance of their salvation.
- 5) How do you define the "social gospel"? Why is the social gospel not a gospel at all?
- 6) How can you be involved in social issues through your community group or Sunday school class?
- 7) How can you summarize James' point in vv. 18-19? Yes, admittedly this section is confusing!
- 8) Why is a cognitive faith not "enough"? See James 1:19 and Deut. 6:4.

Reflect:

The Reformers argued that in order for someone to be a genuine Christian, there had to be three components to their faith: content, conviction, and consent. Content means that one understands the reliability of the gospel. Conviction means that a person genuinely believes that it is true. Lastly, consent means that someone personally entrusts themselves to Christ.

James argues that when all three of those are present, obedient works flow out of one's salvation. Do you affirm all three points above? And how is your life demonstrating this affirmation?