

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	What the Bible Says About Faith that Saves
SERMON REFERENCE:	James 2:14-26
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1568

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1) INTRODUCTION

a) James 2:14-26

i) James is talking about salvation and works.

ii) In verse 19, the word “tremble” literally means “shudder.”

(1) It’s a word that means to make the hair stand up on the back of their necks.

(2) It comes from a word that means “to stand up.”

b) We are saved by grace and grace alone, and faith lays hold of that grace.

i) Romans 4:1-6

c) Just a cursory reading of these verses in the books of James and Romans might sound as if James is saying that Abraham is justified by works while Paul is saying that he is justified by the grace of God without works of any kind.

i) Romans 1:17

ii) Titus 3:5

iii) We are saved by the grace of God and nothing else.

(1) Salvation is by the grace of God and not of works of any kind.

d) Romans 11:6

i) The minute you add any works to grace, grace is no longer grace.

(1) Anyone who tries to be saved by part grace and part works is a disgrace to grace.

ii) You cannot put grace and works together.

e) James 2:18

i) In this passage, James imagines two men having a religious argument.

(1) Both of them claim that they are saved.

(2) One man says that he is saved because he believes.

(3) The other man says, “Show me your faith without your works.”

(4) The first man responds, “I’ll show you my faith by my works.”

ii) Grace is exclusively Christian.

(1) Nobody else except our Lord Jesus Christ teaches salvation by grace.

(2) There are only two kinds of religion in the world:

(a) Grace

(i) This is spelled “done.”

1. When Jesus died on the cross, He said, “It is finished.”

2. John 19:30

(b) Works

(i) This is spelled “do.”

f) There is no contradiction between being saved by trusting the Lord and faith without works is dead.

i) They are heads and tails of the same coin.

ii) What Paul is talking about in Romans 4 is justification before God.

iii) What James is talking about is justification before men.

(1) God knows when we are justified by trusting Christ.

(a) But people cannot see that we have trusted Christ.

- (b) All people can see is what we do and how we live.
 - (i) People cannot see our faith.
 - (2) People can only see our works.
 - iv) Paul is talking about being justified before God.
 - v) Paul is talking about the root of our salvation.
 - (1) James is talking about the fruit of our salvation.
 - (a) The fruit is the proof of the root.
 - vi) Paul is talking about inward justification.
 - (1) James is talking about outward demonstration.
 - vii) Paul is talking about the provision of salvation.
 - (1) James is talking about the proof of salvation.
 - viii) Paul is talking about the means of salvation.
 - (1) James is talking about the marks of salvation.
 - g) We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.
 - i) We're not saved by faith and works but by faith that works.
 - h) James is saying that we can't claim to believe in God and salvation by grace if there hasn't been a dramatic change in our lives.
 - i) If your religion hasn't changed your life, then you better change your religion.
 - i) We do what we do, not in order to be saved, but because we have been saved.
 - j) James is talking about a dead faith, and today's message will do an autopsy on this dead faith to see why it is a dead faith.
- 2) A DEAD FAITH IS PROFITLESS (JAMES 2:14)
- a) It brings a profitless profession.
 - b) James 2:14
 - i) "Can faith save him" literally asks, "Can that faith save him?"
 - (1) It means, "Can that kind of faith save him?"
 - ii) This Scripture doesn't claim that the man has real faith, just that the man says that he does.
 - (1) Everything that people say is not necessarily true.
 - c) Just repeating pious phrases never saved anyone.
 - i) Trusting Jesus is what saves us.
 - d) James is talking about the man who has a superficial, religious vocabulary; but he has never had a divine encounter with Almighty God.
 - e) This dead religion is profitless.
 - i) Pious attitudes don't get us to Heaven.
- 3) A DEAD FAITH IS FRUITLESS (JAMES 2:15-19)
- a) A dead faith is a barren belief.
 - b) James 2:15-19
 - i) Some people don't have any more faith than the devil himself.
 - c) The devil has a certain intellectual belief concerning the Gospel.

- i) Matthew 8:28-29
 - (1) The demons recognized Jesus for exactly who He is, the Son of God.
 - ii) Mark 1:23-24
 - (1) The devil believes that Jesus is the Holy One of God.
 - iii) Luke 4:41
 - iv) The devil is orthodox in his belief.
 - (1) He believes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
 - v) James 2:19
 - (1) The demons believe and shudder.
 - (a) Real faith doesn't cause people to shudder.
 - (i) It does just the opposite.
 - 1. Real faith brings peace.
 - 2. Romans 5:1
 - vi) The devil believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, was born of a virgin, died on the cross and was raised from the dead.
 - (1) If the devil were sitting in our churches in human flesh, he would be willing to work in the church, sing in the choir, serve as a deacon and even preach.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 11:14-15
 - (2) But he will not submit to Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.
 - (a) Many people today think that they are going to Heaven because they believe the facts of faith and know the plan of salvation.
 - (b) We are not saved by the plan of salvation.
 - (i) We are saved by the Man of salvation, and His name is Jesus.
 - d) A dead faith is fruitless.
 - i) A person may have an intellectual understanding of the Gospel, but he will miss Heaven because it's never gotten from his head to his heart.
 - (1) He's never trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.
- 4) A DEAD FAITH IS LIFELESS (JAMES 2:20-26)
- a) Faith without works is dead.
 - b) James 2:20-26
 - i) The reason faith without works doesn't save is because it's not true faith.
 - (1) A person with this kind of faith is still dead in trespasses and sin.
 - c) A Christian is someone who has the life of God.
 - d) We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.
 - i) It is not faith plus works.
 - ii) It is faith that works.
 - e) James is not saying that works save.
 - i) He is saying that real faith produces works.
 - ii) What a person really believes, he lives by.
 - (1) The rest is just talk.

- f) In the book of Romans, Paul is talking about a know-so salvation; James is talking about a show-so salvation.
- g) James gives two examples and an illustration of a show-so salvation:
 - i) Abraham
 - (1) James 2:23-24
 - (2) James says that Abraham showed his faith when he offered Isaac upon the altar.
 - (a) James 2:21
 - (3) But the book of Genesis says that Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness thirty years before he offered Isaac.
 - (a) Genesis 15:6
 - (4) James is saying that when Abraham offered up Isaac, he was showing what had happened thirty years earlier.
 - (5) James is talking about being justified before men.
 - (a) No one could see the faith in Abraham's heart back when he believed God in Genesis 15.
 - (b) But we can all see Abraham's faith when he offered up Isaac.
 - (6) James is telling us, "Don't tell me you that believe in God, and it doesn't affect your life."
 - (7) Abraham was saved when he first trusted the Lord, but his faith was demonstrated when he offered up Isaac.
 - ii) Rahab
 - (1) James 2:25
 - (2) Rahab was a harlot who became a saint and a woman in the lineage of our Savior.
 - (a) Her life was changed.
 - (3) Salvation will make a bad man good and a good man better.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - iii) A body without works
 - (1) James 2: 26
 - (a) The body in this illustration is your belief.
 - (b) The body without the Spirit is dead.
 - (2) If all you have is your belief and you don't have the Spirit of God, then you have no life.
 - (a) What good is a corpse without a spirit?
 - (b) What good is a belief without life?
 - (3) Before a corpse can do good works, he must have life.
 - (a) If a corpse received life and began walking around, it would not be his walking around that gave him life.
 - (i) He walks around because he has received life.
 - (b) The works do not make him alive.
 - (i) He can't do works until he becomes alive.
 - (c) He has life, and then he has works.

(4) There's only one way to be saved, and that is by trusting Jesus and Jesus alone.

(a) Ephesians 2:8-9

(5) We are not saved if the life of God is not in us.

5) CONCLUSION

a) Have you had a changed life?

b) Is the life of God in you?

c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.

i) Romans 3:23

ii) Romans 10:9-10

iii) Romans 10:13

iv) Acts 16:31

v) John 3:16