

The Book of James – The Only NT Book

James 2:14-26 The Works of Faith

Context: Suffering, scattered, social inequalities, financial hardship

James 2:14-26 Faith without works – dead faith

1. Salvation by works? Or faith + works?
2. Against Ephesians 2:8-9? No, read vs. 10!

James 2:14-20

James 2:14 “faith” (KJV) “that faith” (NASB), “such a faith” (NIV) “his faith” (RSV)

How do we know this is a comparison of types of faith – intellectual vs saving faith?

(ahead to v. 19).

James 2:15-16 “useless” faith (also vs. 18-20)

Uses of faith

1. Salvation
2. Christian ministry – Love of Christ constrains us (II Corinthians 5:17)
I Corinthians 15:58 Abounding in the work OF the Lord, know not in vain
IN the Lord.

James 2:17 “Inadequate” faith is dead, being alone

Not dead, not alone

1. Body is the temple (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
2. IN the Lord (I Corinthians 15:58 above)

James 2:21-26 - Faith Justified

vs. 21-24 Example of Abraham

1. Saved (v. 23)
2. Faith justified, i.e. completed/perfected by works (vs. 21-22)
3. Example of Rahab (v. 25)
4. Other examples of Hebrews 11 (vs. 4, 7, 23-29, 30)
5. Dead faith – without works = without spirit

Hard Question – Can a Christian live a wasted life, useless to Jesus Christ? Will they defend their faith? What good are they?

Good Answer – Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23, 25, 6:2, 9-10)