



**Sunday, April 18, 2010: Epistle of James - "Faith and Works"**

**Scripture: James 2:14-26**

**Speaker: Scott Masson**

**Sermon Notes:**

1. The challenge in this passage is to grasp the connection between a person's actions and heart.
2. Though He condemns judgmentalism, Jesus says we'll know false prophets by their fruit. Matthew 7:1-6, 15-20.
3. Jesus said to judge rightly, not by appearances. John 7:24.
4. Faith should bind us to Christ, not to what the church teaches.
5. We're saved by Christ, not by our ability to understand or articulate the doctrine of justification by faith alone.
6. James says it is ridiculous to claim faith in contradiction to one's actions and lifestyle.
7. Warm words alone do not satisfy people's needs; Christian love must include practical action to help those in need.
8. James rejects both faith without works and works without faith.
9. *Hold fast bravely to Christ after receiving His gift of faith.* - Calvin
10. Christ does good things in us; we deny that we're in Christ if we don't do His good works.
11. We're to act out the salvation that God has begun in us. Philippians 2:12-13.
12. James combats people whose faith is so superficial that it has no affect on their lives.
13. In teaching justification by faith alone, Paul combats legalists who are trusting in their works as a basis of salvation.
14. In keeping with James, both Paul and John teach the necessity of works to accompany true faith: Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 John 3:16-18.
15. God chooses to work through us as we pray and obey His will.
16. Real faith is never alone, as demonstrated by Abraham whose faith was active with his works. Verse 22.
17. Justifying faith is active in producing good works.

18. Jesus learned obedience by His many years of submission.
19. As an outworking of our faith, acts of obedience are important ways that God shapes and prepares us for His kingdom service.
20. The only sign of past conversion is present convertedness.

**Application Questions:**

1. How does John 15:1-8 contribute to our understanding of the place of good works in the Christian life?
2. What does Jesus teach on judging others and their fruit?
3. Show how Paul and John reinforce James' teaching on faith and works.
4. Why must we still pray for things that are within our control?
5. How is the faith of demons accurate? How is it deficient? See James 2:19.
6. According to Philippians 2:12-13 what is the source of the Christian's good works?
7. Why were Abraham and Rahab counted righteous?
8. Do my actions show that Christ has done a good work in my life?
9. Are my practical acts of Christian love consistent with my claims of faith?