

THE BOOK OF JAMES

“Faith Was Perfected”

Scripture Reading: JAMES 2:20-26

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-9**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 10**. Today we Continue in our expository study in the Book of JAMES. This is week #15. I have titled today’s message *“Faith Was Perfected”* (2:22).
-) As all of you know, I was born and raised in the Catholic faith tradition. I left the Catholic church when I was 22 years old. I began attending a protestant church 11 years later when I was 33 years old. I got saved at a work Bible study when I was 40.
-) I have issues with Roman Catholic theology and rightfully so. They teach a false gospel. And a false gospel never saved anyone. Had I continued believing the Roman Catholic theology that I was taught, I would be on my way to eternal damnation. BGCC, this is a very serious cause for concern.
-) **SLIDE 11**. I preach and teach reformed theology. That is the theology as established by the reformers back in the 16th century. The reformers developed five solas (which means alone). How is a person saved? Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Christus, Sola Scriptura, and Sola Deo Gloria.
-) This cry of the reformers caused a huge counter attack by the established Roman Catholic Church. So, at the Council of Trent (1548-1563) the RCC developed doctrines concerning salvation counter to the reformers that still exists today.
-) **SLIDE 12**. I spoke at length about Roman Catholic theology and how a person gets saved in these three messages from a series I spoke on Roman Catholicism.

-) Everything I say in these messages is straight from Roman Catholic theology as they teach it. They are not my words nor are they my opinions. They are their words and their doctrines from Roman Catholic websites and publications.
-) The reformed protestant believes Sola Scriptura. Let's look at the Scriptures and see what the Scriptures alone teach us about salvation.
-) **SLIDE 13.** EPHESIANS 2:8-10. Sola Fide.
-) **SLIDE 14.** ROMANS 3:27-28. Sola Fide.
-) **SLIDE 15.** GALATIANS 2:16. Sola Fide.
-) **SLIDE 16.** Here is a simple representation of what the Bible teaches about salvation.
-) **SLIDE 17.** Roman Catholic theology teaches that a person must contribute works along with their faith in Jesus Christ to be justified (saved). The work of Jesus Christ on the cross is not sufficient to save a person. Our works must cooperate with our faith in an ongoing process of justification. And a person who believes and trusts in Roman Catholic theology can never have assurance of his/her salvation.
-) To some, this may seem like an insignificant difference. The truth is, that it is a matter of eternal life or eternal death. Teaching that works is a necessary contribution to EARN salvation is a false gospel and the apostle Paul pronounces an anathema on anyone preaching a false gospel. Yes, this is a serious issue and I hope you can see my concern for the truth.
-) Now, the question becomes this: Where does RC theology come up with the belief that works is a necessary contribution for salvation? Answer. A poor interpretation of JAMES 2.
-) Roman Catholic theology places works as a necessity to EARN salvation and these works must cooperate with one's faith in Christ. It's a pretty complex system. Listen to sermons.

-) On the other hand, a true Christian will place works on the evidence side of salvation.
-) Let's look at the text and see what James is saying and how Roman Catholic theology misinterprets this passage.
-) **SLIDE 18.** JAMES 2:21. At first glance it may appear that Roman Catholic doctrine may be correct. It does say that Abraham was justified by works. Let's take a closer look at this word "*justified.*"
-) **SLIDE 19.** The Greek word used here in James is the word *Dikaio* (DEE-kay-o). It has a dual meaning just like our English word has a dual meaning. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 20.** Let's look at a verse from LUKE that uses this exact same word. LUKE 7:35. NKJV.
-) **SLIDE 21.** LUKE 7:35. NIV. To be proved right. And isn't this what we talked about last week? Our professed faith is proved right by evidence of our actions.
-) **SLIDE 22.** JAMES 2:21. Include "*proven right.*" Doesn't this make a whole lot more sense? It's consistent with James' teaching on works being the evidence of our faith.
-) **SLIDE 23.** And if we add v 22/23 we see this is exactly what James is teaching. JAMES 2:22-23.
-) "*And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.*" James is quoting GENESIS 15:6. Abraham's belief in God was what saved him. His willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac in GENESIS 22 was the proof of his faith.
-) **SLIDE 24.** JAMES 2:25. James gives another OT example using Rahab. Her works were evidence of her faith.
-) **SLIDE 25.** JAMES 2:24. This verse will be incorrectly interpreted if 1) it is taken out of context and/or 2) an incorrect definition of the word "*justified*" is used, and/or 3) if we do not compare this verse with other Scripture texts.

-) If works were necessary for salvation, then the apostle Paul would have taught that in all his letters. But he didn't.
-) And it is incorrectly interpreted. And an entire religious system called Roman Catholicism has used JAMES 2:18-26 to add works as a necessary contribution for salvation. Again, if you want to know more about RC justification, how a person gets saved according to RC theology, please go back and listen to what I have previously taught on this topic.
-) The people in the churches in the area of Galatia were being taught by the Judaizers that they must add the works of the Law to their faith in Jesus Christ to be saved. How does the apostle Paul respond to this heresy?
-) **SLIDE 26.** GALATIANS 1:6-9. BGCC, there's only one true gospel. And it is simple. Christ has done all the work. The difference between believing I must contribute works for my salvation and believing in Christ alone for my salvation is the difference between eternal damnation and eternal life.
-) So, I ask. Would you consider this a serious issue? There are 1.6 billion professing Roman Catholics around the world today.
-) **SLIDE 27.** Let's remember this. EPHESIANS 2:8-9. Grace and faith is a what from God? Gift. A gift isn't something we earn. If we did, then it would no longer be a gift. A gift is something that is freely given with nothing expected in return.
-) **SLIDE 28.** Paul reinforces this truth. ROMANS 11:6. If we had to work for it, then it's no longer grace. If a gift was something that was earned, then it would no longer be a gift.
-) Do all Roman Catholics believe Roman Catholic theology? No. Do all Protestants believe Protestant theology? No.
-) According to a poll conducted by Pew Research on August 31, 2017, 52% of Protestants surveyed believe you must add good works to your faith in Christ to earn your salvation.

-) And 81% of Roman Catholics surveyed believe you must add good works to your faith in Christ to earn your salvation.
-) You are what you believe. If you believe that Jesus Christ has done it all for your salvation, the gift is eternal life. If you believe that for your salvation you must contribute to what Jesus Christ has already done by your good works and merit, then you believe a false gospel and according to the Word of God in GALATIANS you are accursed. Eternally condemned.
-) If I am wrong on this topic, then John MacArthur and RC Sproul and others are wrong too because I learn from them. And if they are wrong, then Martin Luther and the reformers are wrong because MacArthur and Sproul learned from them.
-) And if the reformers are wrong, then the apostle Paul is wrong with what he wrote in his letters to the GALATIANS, ROMANS, EPHESIANS, etc. because it was from these letters that Luther received this truth.
-) Concerning the topic of salvation I would rather be narrow and right, then to be wide and wrong.
-) **SLIDE 29**. But I am betting my eternity on this. The five solas. The cry of the reformers. And the true path of salvation. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!
-) Give away book.

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