

Faith that Serves

(Good works – Part 1) James 2:14-19

- I. Main Point: Faith without good works is dead – useless to all (James 2:14-17).

Do Paul and James disagree?

- PAUL (Ephesians 2:8-9) For it is by grace you have been **saved, through faith**—and this not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God--** **not by works**, so that no one can boast.
- JAMES (James 2:14) What good is it, my brothers, if someone **says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?** (James 2:17) So also **faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**
- No they don't disagree! *Hint:* (Ephesians 2:10) For we are God's workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- A. Our faith is useless to ourselves without works (2:14) [It can't "save" us when God evaluates (judges) our lives as believers, James 2:12-13; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10].
- B. Our faith is useless to those in need – if we don't serve by helping them (2:15-17).
➤ **Am I personally helping those who have financial or practical needs? When? How?**
- II. Regardless of what anyone says, good works matter greatly (James 2:18-19).
- A. It's a serious spiritual problem when a believer doesn't add good works to their faith (2:18; 2 Peter 1:5-11).
➤ **No one can show their faith without works.**
➤ **Do my good works show my faith to unbelievers (Matthew 5:16; John 13:35)?**
- B. Just believing right is useless to those in need; even demons believe right about God (2:19).
➤ **Am I seeking to know and do the good works has God planned for me?**