

FAITH AND WORKS

RESOLVING THE CONFUSION

“Ye see then how that by works a man is justified,
and not by faith only.”

~ James 2:24

1. Faith and Works Confusion

- a. Justify ~*def.* to regard, prove, or judge to be righteous. *How are we justified?*
 - i. Working not, faith only - Rom 4:5, 5:1
 - ii. By works not faith only - Jam 2:24
- b. The historical, perennial, salvation problem (*Reform., Calvin/Armin, OSAS, Lordship*)

2. The Need to Rightly Divide

- a. Attempted solutions: justified by who?, James corrects Paul, works prove faith
- b. The common error → assuming Paul and James preach the same message.
- c. James is speaking to Israel under law and covenants – Acts 8:1, James 1:1
- d. Paul is speaking to all men without law and covenants – Rom 3:21-22
- e. The faith (message) of James and Paul differ.

3. The Faith of James

- a. The coming Holy One and covenants - Luke 1:67-75
- b. Pure religion and doing works – James 1:22-27
- c. There is one God and Christ – James 2:1, 2:19, Luke 4:33-35
- d. Lord Jesus commanded – John 14:15, 21, 15:10, 1Jn 3:23, Matt 25:40, Jam 2:14-17
- e. Faith (in covenant) required works to get done, be perfected – James 2:18, 20, 25-26

4. The Faith of Paul

- a. We are made perfect by the hearing of faith – Gal 3:2-3, Titus 3:5
- b. The righteous work finished by Christ – Gal 2:21, 3:11-13, 1Cor 15:14, Rom 3:25-26
- c. We conclude that that a man is justified by faith w/o deeds – Rom 3:27-28, Eph 2:8
- d. Righteousness imputed from Christ by faith w/o works – Rom 4:19-22, 5:1

5. Justified by Covenant (James)

- a. Covenants needed for when the work is not yet done. Deu 6:25, 32:47 vs. 1Tim 1:6
- b. Works made faith perfect, just as sacrifices forgave sins – James 2:21-24
- c. Sacrifices offered in lieu of unfinished work – Lev 4:20, 26, 17:11 (Heb 10:1-4)
- d. Christ in shadow and figure required symbols, substitutes, work. Heb 11:17, Col 2:17

6. Justified by Grace (Paul)

- a. Grace is a done gift. Grace and works don't mix - Romans 11:6
- b. Justified freely by his grace - Romans 3:24
- c. It is either faith and works (covenant Israel), or you have faith in works (free grace)
- d. When faith says do, your faith must do. When faith says done, your faith is done.