

Our devotion today is an outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for June 06, 2021.

THE FAITH THAT SAVES James 2:14-26

The book of Romans emphasizes as strongly as possible that salvation comes to an individual who makes a faith-response to the grace of God in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:28: **THEREFORE WE CONCLUDE THAT A MAN IS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH WITHOUT THE DEEDS OF THE LAW.**

The book of James emphasizes that a faith which is genuine, manifests itself in a transformed life that issues in service to God and man.

Our text today raises the practical question concerning whether a faith which does not produce a changed life, can be considered as genuine. James concludes in James 2:17: **Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.**

There is one thing that we must keep in mind about these two passages: They are at distinct stages in a person's Christian life:

Paul is dealing with the person that is going to accept Christ. And thus, he is saying that there is nothing we can do to make ourselves good enough to be saved.

James is dealing with the results of this salvation Paul is speaking of. Where Paul is looking to salvation, James is looking back on this salvation and saying what it is.

WHAT IS JAMES SAYING?

1. THE FAITH THAT SAVES IS MORE THAN INTELLECTUAL ASSENT OR AGREEMENT.

James 2:19 says: **Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.**

Even Satan himself at the time of temptation told Jesus that He was the Son of God to do certain things, Matthew chapter 4:

Surely without a doubt the devils give agreement to the existence of God but do not believe and trust God for redemption.

One can believe everything that the Bible says about God and yet not have a genuine faith. There are too many ideas and teachings by false teachers.

I have found and talked with many people that knew the Bible but were not Christians by their own testimonies. (Other Religions)

2. THE FAITH THAT SAVES RESPONDS TO THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL: (Romans 1:16: **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

If we have this saving faith, then we are willing to surrender the human will, to the good will of a loving God who has revealed Himself in the life and death of Jesus Christ. **Christ gave up his will to stay in Heaven to come show us the way of salvation... He lived and He died for us! What are we doing for Him?**

Paul responded not only to the good news of God's love but also manifested that response in the question: "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" and he was willing to do it: Acts: 9:6: **And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.**

3. THE FAITH THAT SAVES LEADS TO A SEPARATION FROM PAGAN HABITS.

When Matthew trusted Jesus he arose from the set of customs and followed Him. Matthew 9:9: **And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.**

He gave up his old way of life

He gave up the devil's way

He followed Jesus.

When Paul was saved and said Lord, what wilt thou have me to do, he did a turnabout, and went the other way.

Paul was going to persecute the Christians, but Paul ended up as a Christian. Paul insists that as converts who had been the slaves of sin, they

were now to be the servants of righteousness. Romans 6:18 says: **Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**

The Bible teaches that unless we have changed our ways, we do not have the faith that saves. Things should change when we give it all to Christ.

4. THE FAITH THAT SAVES, IS A FAITH THAT LEADS TO SERVICE OR WORKS.

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, we should not say and will not say, God bless you, go in peace and hunger no more, we are going to do something about the situation.

What type of work do we have?

Conclusion:

DO WE HAVE THE FAITH THAT SAVES?

One can have complete knowledge, as far as information is concerned, and still not have the faith that saves.

One can give the full assent of his mind to the truthfulness of what the Bible has to say about God and still not have the faith that saves.

Faith becomes genuine when we act upon the knowledge which we have received about God's grace and God's power and God's purpose to redeem those who will make Jesus Christ the Lord of life.

THE FAITH THAT IS GENUINE IS THE FAITH THAT EXPRESSES ITSELF IN TRUST, CONFIDENCE AND COMMITMENT.

Do you have this trust?

Do you have this Confidence?

Do you have this Commitment?

As we think about what is going on today in the world, is it because so many people do not accept the truth about becoming a Christian and letting others see Jesus in them?

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