

FAITH WITH WORKS IS USEFUL AND BENEFICIAL TO OTHERS

Part 1

(James 2:18-23)

I. THE NEED TO RESIST PARTIALITY AND MANIFEST LOVE TOWARDS OTHERS (2:1-13)

- A. Partiality DISHONORS the Glory of Jesus Christ (2:1)**
- B. Partiality Promotes WORLDLY THINKING within the Local Church (2:2-4)**
- C. Partiality is INCONSISTENT in God's Plan and in Life (2:5-7)**
- D. Putting the Law of Liberty into PRACTICE (2:8-13)**

II. THE BARRENNESS OF A BELIEVER'S FAITH WITHOUT WORKS (2:14-17)

III. THE BENEFIT OF A BELIEVER'S FAITH WITH WORKS (2:18-26)

A. James uses a HYPOTHETICAL OBJECTOR (2:18-20)

1. In v. 18 James moves on to introduce a hypothetical objector, and he seems to be making an _____ rather than simply making a statement; he will give his _____ in vv. 19-23.

2. James is stating, someone may object: "*Here is one who _____ to have faith and another who _____ to his deeds.*" (v. 18)

3. The basis of our assurance that we are saved is primarily the _____ of God in _____ (John 1:12; 3:16, 36; 5:24; 6:47; 10:27-29; 20:31; etc.); it is _____ the presence or absence of good works (fruit) in our lives.

- * Did Jesus ever teach that some believers would not bear fruit? (Matt. 13:22; Luke 8:14; John 15:2)

4. While faith in Christ certainly _____ result in good works towards others, unfortunately this is _____ a reality. (2 Pet. 1:5-9)

5. James used an example of the demons whose monotheistic belief in God is real and _____, but yet their _____ is not, their belief has not produced good works, only “*trembling.*” (v. 19)

* How much more should the faith of these genuine believers result in some perceivable, profitable good works toward other believers in need?

6. James emphatically states that faith in the Lord without works is “*dead*”, i.e., _____ from God’s _____, it is _____, without profit towards others. (v. 20)

B. James uses the O.T. Illustration of ABRAHAM (2:21-23)

1. The author introduces an Old Testament illustration by asking a question, “*Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?*” (v. 21)

a. Answer: _____ if you are thinking of justification before _____ in the forensic sense, which saves one from hell.

b. Answer: _____ if you are thinking of a justification before _____, which now makes one’s works visible before others.

2. The offering of Isaac fulfilled the Scriptures in that it demonstrated to men the _____ of Abraham first mentioned in Gen. 15:6 when he was declared righteous before God _____ good works (Rom. 4:1-5). (vv. 22-23)

* What can you personally apply from this passage today