"James #7"

James 2:14 - 26 (Faith and Works)

Review: James 2: 8 - 13 (ESV)

Verses 8 and 9… ***"If you fulfill the royal law… You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well… But if you show partiality, you are committing sin."***

- **The whole law is summarized in, the royal law…** ***"You shall love your neighbor as yourself.***
- **To show favoritism or partiality, is to break the whole law. (V's 10 – 11)**

Philippians 2:3 (ESV) ***"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourself."***

Romans 12:10 (NKJV) ***"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another."***

James 2: 12 – 13 (ESV)

- **If I show no mercy… I will be judged without mercy.**
- **MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT!**

Tonight's Study: James 2: 14 – 17 (ESV) Read

Marten Luther: ***(Referred to this New Testament letter – "An epistle of straw." Luther felt that this letter lacked the focus on the person and work of Jesus Christ to warrant much of his energy. Straw has its benefits but is not all that useful in the long run.)***

- **James wants to emphasize that, though faith alone does save us, saving faith is never alone.**
- **The question is not, can a faith with no deeds be a saving faith?**
- **Rather, the question is. Can a saving faith have no deeds… is it even possible for saving faith to not be working?**

James gives the example of verses 15 & 16…

Text: James 2: 18 – 24 (ESV)

- **V21, Was not Abraham our father justified by works… V22, You see faith was active along with his works and was completed by his works.**
- **V23, Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.**

***The issue for James was not that faith alone saves us, the issue of works comes up because those who claimed to have faith have no works to prove it.* V's 18 - 19**

Romans 3: 21 – 26 Read (NKJV) – Seems to some controversy, but there it none…

Two words I want to unpack: (NKJV)

1. **V24, Being justified freely by His grace… Freely can be translated *"without any cost"***

V24 (NASB) ***"Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus."***

2. **V25… Read Propitiation: *"The act of appeasing God's wrath against sin through a sacrificial offering. With Jesus Christ's death on the cross being the ultimate propitiation that satisfies divine justice and restores fellowship with God. It involves turning away God's anger by dealing with the offence of sin, demonstrating both God's justice and His love, unlike mere covering of sin which focuses solely on removing guilt."***

(Sin demands punishment, and propitiation meets that demand, showing God is just)

(Jesus' perfect life and atoning death are the propitiatory sacrifice that makes reconciliation possible)

Note: Propitiation can also be translated *"Mercy seat"*

V25b – 26 ***"Because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."***

Romans 3: 27 – 30 Read

V27… ***Where is boasting?... by our works?... No, but by the law of faith.***

V28… We conclude that a man is justified (Made righteous) by faith apart from the deeds of the law

Text James 2: 25 – 26 Read (Another example how deeds work with true faith)

Romans 4: 1 – 8 (NKJV) Read (We can unpack this next week – I would like your thoughts)

"James #7 Addendum

James 2:14 - 26 (Faith and Works) Addendum

Martin Luther: on works and James 2:14 – 26

"Faith is a Divine (That is to say, God's) work in us and makes us to be born anew of God. It kills the old 'Adam' and makes us altogether different people. In heart and spirit and mind and all powers: and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O, it is a living, busy, active thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly… Thus, it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate heat and light from fire.

(LW 35:370 – 371)