"James #8"

James 3: 1 - 12 (Teachers and Taming the Tongue)

Review: James 2: 14 - 26 (ESV) (Faith and Works)

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)

- **James: Saving faith is never alone.**
- **The question we need to ask 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…

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 be 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

Romans 4: 1 – 6 (NKJV) Salvation, Redemption, Righteousness… Being born again are all free gifts from God.

- **Verses 7 and 8… Wonderful Forgiveness!!**

Tonight's study: James 3:1 – 12 (ESV)

V1… Another translation: ***"Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."***

2 Corinthians 5: 17 – 21 (ESV) Read

- **Two things, Gods gives teachers: #1 The ministry of reconciliation and #2 Teachers are ambassadors for Christ, to reconcile sinners to God.**
- **All born again Christians are and will teach others… Ephesians tells us God gifts certain people for teaching.**

2 Timothey 4:3 - 4(ESV) Read

- **People are always looking for teachings to fit their beliefs or agendas.**
- **V5** ***"As for you, always be sober minded, endure suffering, do the work of avangelist, fulfill your ministry."***

Text: James 3: 2 – 9 (ESV) Read

- **The tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness, full of deadly poison, a restless evil!!**
- **No human can tame…**

(Horse Bits… there is a misunderstanding… a bit in the wrong hands can ruin a horse!)

(A severe tongue can destroy a person…Jesus said, I am lowly and gentle)

- **Yet so many Teachers / Pastors, use severe bits on the people of God.**

Text: James 3: 10 -12 (ESV) Read

- **V6…Says that the tongue is set on fire by hell**
- **Unfortunately, we are all guilty of speaking blessings and cursing out of the same mouth.**