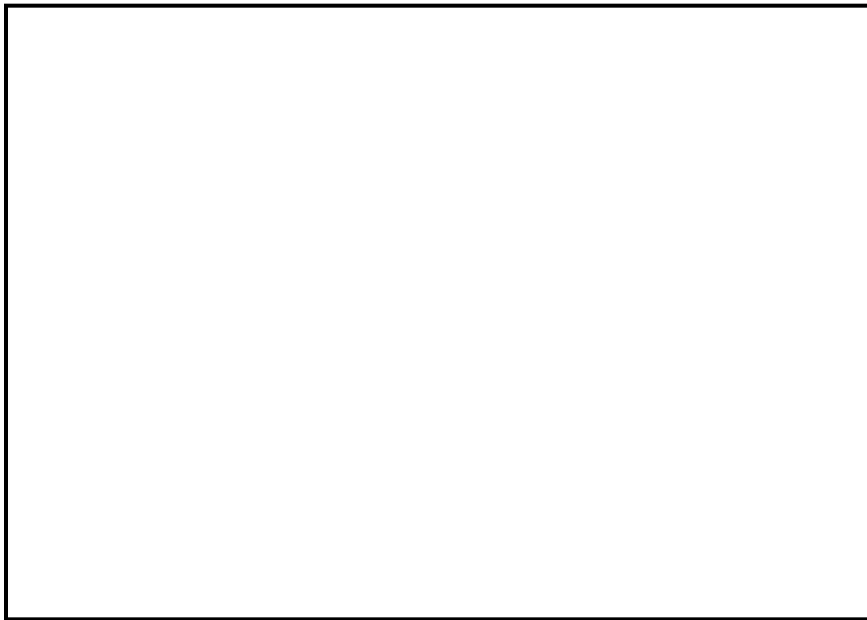




THE BIBLE WAY TO HEAVEN

Realize That God Loves You.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16).

The Bible Says That All Men Are Sinners.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”
(Romans 3:23).

God’s Word Also Says That Sin Must Be Paid For.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

The Good News Is That Jesus Christ Paid for Your Sins.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8).

You Must Personally Call on Jesus Christ to Save You.

The Bible Says, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (Romans 10:13).

COLLEGIANS FOR CHRIST

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Are We Justified by Faith or by Works?

3

Memory Verse - Ephesians 2:10

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Study Aim

- To discover the difference between the teachings of Paul and James on being justified by faith and works.
- To learn what James is teaching us concerning the place of good works and their role in our Christian life.
- Read James 2:14-26

Set the Stage

- The theme of James: The Evidences of a Mature Christian.
 - James is dealing with the difference between false faith and genuine faith.
- Paul deals with our faith **before God** while James deals with our faith **before man**. Paul deals with how we come to Jesus Christ and James deals with how we act after we come to Jesus Christ.
- Their writings do not contradict each other, instead their writings actually compliment each other.

Take it to the Next Level

1. The Example of Scripture

A. The use of justified in Scripture.

- Justify means “to declare righteous.”
 - As relating to God and His law, it means that we are **declared righteous** by God because of what Jesus has done. (Paul)
 - As relating to man, it has the idea to be **perceived as righteous** by what we do. (James)

B. The order of faith and works.

- Read Ephesians 2:8-10
- Read Titus 3:8
 - *What is the order given between faith and works? Which comes first? Which is a result of the other?*

2. The Example of the Devils

A. Knowing of God.

- The devils know that God exists but this is not enough. There is a difference between “belief in” and “belief of.”
- *Why is “belief of God” or “knowing of God” not enough to save someone?*

B. Venturing Trust in God.

- Biblical faith is “ventured trust” in Jesus Christ. It occurs when you “call on” Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:13)

3. The Example of Abraham

A. Abraham’s salvation.

- Read Genesis 15:6

B. Abraham’s evidence of his salvation.

- Read Genesis 22:1-18
- James is not talking about Abraham’s salvation. He uses an example 25-30 years later in Abraham’s life. He sacrificed Isaac because of his faith.

4. The Example of Rahab

A. Rahab’s salvation.

- Read Joshua 2:9-11
- Rahab heard of God and believed in Him before the spies ever came.

B. Rahab’s evidence of her salvation.

- James again uses an example that occurred after salvation. She hid the spies because of her faith.

Take Your Next Step

- What works does your faith produce in your daily life?
- What do people think as they see you? Would they know you are a follower of Jesus by the way you live?

Taking it Further

- What are works that you consider important to the Christian faith? What can help you to do good works?