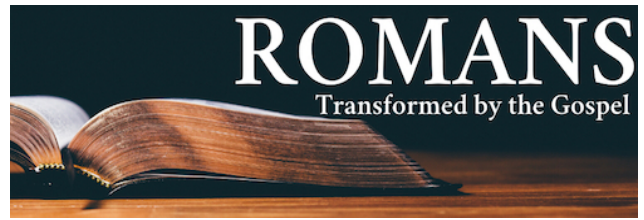


A Faith that Works!

May 31st, 2020 – Romans 4:1-8; James 2:20-24
Pastor Jon Pickens



Romans 4 in Context

1. What is Paul defending?
 - a. He is defending his statement about the **righteousness** of God in Romans 1:16-17.
2. What has been his main arguments up until Romans 4?
 - a. No person, regardless of ethnicity, moral character, or religious heritage are **exempt** from God's wrath because all have sinned and justice must be upheld.
 - b. All people are in need of being **justified** of their crimes against God.
 - c. The **death** of **Jesus** was the only way God could justify people and be just in doing so.
 - d. This righteousness from God is declared to people on the basis of **faith** not **works**.
3. What is Paul meaning in Romans 4?
 - a. Paul is making the point that works do not produce this righteousness that only comes through faith, and **Abraham** is a perfect example of this.

James 2 in Context

1. What is James challenging in James 2?
 - a. James is challenging the **genuineness** of a faith that does not produce **works**.
2. How does James make his challenge?
 - a. Faith that is not accompanied by works is "**dead**" or "**useless**".
 - b. A faith defined by mere **head** belief is not genuine faith.
3. How does James use the illustration of Abraham?
 - a. James is simply pointing out that Abraham's faith was accompanied with actions that **proved** that his faith was genuine.
4. What does James conclude in James 2?
 - a. James concludes that **works** are a very important part of genuine **faith**.
 - b. He does not conclude that works produce **salvation**.
 - c. He concludes that works actually serve as **proof** of genuine faith... this in fact is the kind of faith that will save a person.

Romans 4 and James 2 Conclusion:

1. Romans 4 and James 2 actually **complement** each other rather than **contradict** each other.
 - a. Justification by grace through **genuine** faith, which will be accompanied by actions that **prove** faith is indeed genuine.
 - b. A person who **claims** to believe in Jesus yet does not produce works does not possess genuine faith.
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Implication Questions

1. What works would you suspect would be produced by someone who possess genuine faith?
2. What are some of the works that your faith has produced in you since you have been a follower of Christ?
3. What action(s) have you taken recently that you can say is produced from your faith in Christ?
4. God created us to do good works that flow from our faith. What work, deed, or action can you take that is a direct result of your genuine faith in Christ?

Next Steps: June Reading Plan (Week 1)

Day One: Col. 4
Day Two: Eph. 1
Day Three: Eph. 2
Day Four: Eph. 3
Day Five: Eph. 4

Journaling Tip:

Before you even begin your time reading and journaling, quiet your heart before the Lord and ask Him to teach you more about Him through His Word.

Next Week's Sermon: James 5:1-11

June Scripture Memory:

43 "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, **44** for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. **45** The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Luke 6:43-45 (ESV)