

Lesson 17: Faith and Works, Part 2

Lesson Introduction

(The following introduction is an adaptation from Dr. Scudder's sermon)

Faith without works--preachers can be on track with everything, and then when they get to faith and works, they totally blow it. There are preachers that during one service will preach it's all by grace apart from any works, then the next service they preach you have to have works or you're not saved.

They should be promoting the gospel just as it is in the Bible. Just give it like it is in the Bible!. Five thousand believed and were saved (Acts 4:4). "What must I do to be saved?" "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31). Don't try to improve on it, because you can't. Just give it like it is in the Bible--[it's] very important that we understand this.

Lesson Outline

Lesson 17: Faith and Works, Part 2

Topic 1: Galatians 3:6-11

Topic 2: James 2:22-24

James 2:22

James 2:23-24

Summary

Topic 3: Compare James with Romans 4:1-8

Romans 4:1-2

Romans 4:3-4

Romans 4:5

Romans 4:6-8

Topic 1: Galatians 3:6-11

Being a child of Abraham was a big thing for the Jews. Of course they weren't thinking of being a child of Abraham in the way that Paul is describing in Galatians 3:6-11. In Luke 3:7 John warns the crowds coming for baptism saying, "Begin not to say within yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our Father' for I say unto you that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." They were proud to be the physical descendants of Abraham, thinking that they earned the merit he had before God in that way.

Paul discusses how to be a child of Abraham in Galatians 3:6-11.

Assignment

- Please memorize Galatians 3:10-11.

Now first I want us to look at—and these are in your verses—Galatians 3:6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, very important verses—and I hope all of you know these verses—"Even [as] Abraham believed God, and it was [accounted] to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the

children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.” We talked about that this morning. “So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. For as many [as] are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man [is] justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.” Oh I tell you, aren't those verses great? Salvation's by grace. Abraham was saved by believing. We're going to be able to see this. “Even [as] Abraham believed God, and it was [accounted] to him for righteousness.” . . . ‘They that are of faith are the same as the children of Abraham.’ See, we are the children of Abraham because we have believed by faith. All nations would be blessed. And because of Abraham, because the bloodline of Messiah came through him, yet it says if you're under the works of the law, the curse of the law, you're under all the law. So if you say you believe you got to have the law to be saved, then you have to keep all the law to be saved. “Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law.” You know, there's so many laws. Every one of you has broken laws today. You say, “Well, I didn't speed,” but listen, there's so many laws in our books. The just shall live by faith. The only way you're going to live is by faith.

QUESTION 2

Who does Paul say are the true children of Abraham? Answer: _____

- A. All national Jews
- B. His physical descendants
- C. Those who are of faith
- D. Those who continue in good works

QUESTION 3

It does matter spiritually that the physical descent of the Messiah came through Abraham. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 4

Keeping the law is an all or nothing prospect. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 2: James 2:22-24

In John 8 Jesus is again discussing how the Jews could really become Abraham's children. Again in this passage they claim to be descendants of Abraham who don't need Jesus to set them free (Jn 8:31-33). Later in the passage they also claim that God is their Father (Jn 8:41). But Jesus accuses them of trying to kill him and not loving him the one who has come from the Father (Jn 8:42). He even accuses them of having the devil for their father (Jn 8:44). The bottom line is that if Abraham was their father they would believe in Jesus (Jn 8:39). That was the deed of Abraham (Jn 8:56).

Topic 2: James 2:22-24

James 2:22

Assignment

- Please read John 8:12-59 where Jesus teaches on “Who is Your Father.”

Now okay, James 2:22, “[Seest] thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?” Now this is what we’re talking about. Now is this a contradiction? “[Seest] thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?” But see, this verse is really clear and this verse is not hard to see. You see, Abraham through faith—through absolute trust and confidence in God—offered up his son. And this act proved to the people that he certainly had great faith. You understand what we’re saying? We’re saying that Abraham, before the people, the act of offering Isaac showed that he had great faith. When people come to church, they’ll hear a preacher preach, and they’ll say, “Oh, it’s another preacher. It’s, you know, another Baker, it’s another this one or that one.” But if a person sticks around, they say, “No, I have seen,” or “I have seen that this person in the pew really is different and really [is] living for God.” And after awhile, you see a pattern, and you say, “That person really has faith because I can see it.” See, people see your faith. Now Abraham was a tremendous man of faith. He was such a man of faith [that] he was willing to offer his only son—at least the son through Sarah, the son of his old age—offer that son upon the altar because he had so much faith in God that he put that sacrifice over everything else. Now that’s faith. And if I saw one of you do that—now listen, God doesn’t want human sacrifice—but if I saw you do something like that, I would say, “You have great faith.” Now when I hear someone tell me they have great faith, I don’t want to hear it. When someone gets up and says, “Man, I’m a man of great faith,” what would do you think? You’d think, “Man, I don’t want to hear that man.” If I were to get up tonight and say, “I’ve got more faith than any other man that ever lived,” you’d say, “Get out of here. We don’t want to hear that garbage.” You don’t tell people about your faith. Faith is something you show by your actions. Faith is not something you say by your voice. Abraham was a tremendous man of faith, and faith was made perfect by the work. [It] had nothing to do with his salvation. He was already saved. That’s what we have to be able to see. We have preachers today that don’t seem to know the difference.

QUESTION 5

It is always impressive to hear someone say that they have great faith. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 6

It is true to say that Abraham’s faith was perfected by his works. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 7

Most preachers today seem to know the difference between the role of faith and works in salvation. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 2: James 2:22-24

James 2:23-24

Assignment

- Please memorize 1 Samuel 16:7.

In verse 23 of James 2 it says, “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” People say, “Well, that means that he was . . .”—no, it's not talking—the verse before is talking about his salvation. Abraham believed God. That's what saved him. Now what do you mean? “[Ye] see [then] how that [by] works a man is justified, [and] not by faith only.” He's not justified for salvation. Salvation already took place. He's justified before people. See, you can tell people, oh you love God. And you can tell people how spiritual you are, but if they don't see it—listen, your kids are going to do what they see; they're not going to do exactly what you say. They're going to do what they see. They're going to be looking for reality, and what people want to see today is reality. Now what it's talking about, “Abraham believed God, and it was [accounted] to him for righteousness.” Abraham's belief was imputed to him for righteousness. God puts His righteousness to the account of the believer because He's already paid the penalty of the believer's sin. You say, “Now, how did Abraham get saved if Jesus hadn't died yet?” That's why they still had sacrifices, and the sacrifices were a showing that they believed that there was going to be a Perfect Sacrifice to come. That's exactly what it was saying. And then in verse 24, “Ye see then how that by works a man [is] justified, and not by faith only.” People then see by the person's works that he has faith. People do not have the ability that God has to see a person's faith [or] to know a person's mind. See we can't—see, God can literally see our faith, and God knows what kind of people we are, and God knows what our faith is. But you and I cannot see a person's faith, and this is why it's so dangerous when we get into judging people and we get into judge people, and we think that we've got the answer and the solution and that we can understand people, it's a pretty dangerous thing when we do that. Because we do not have that ability to judge like God gives. 1 Samuel 16:7, “But the Lord [said] unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.” See, we as Christians, we've got to learn to start not looking on the outward, but to look upon the heart. We've got to learn to look upon the heart and see, see what kind of person by faith we are. And if we don't have enough faith, then we need to start showing more faith, as God wants us to show it. So don't look on the outward. Don't look on the outward appearance.

QUESTION 8

Unbelievers want to see the reality of a Christian living the life he speaks of. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 9

We should judge a Christian's work and if they don't measure up we should warn them that maybe they weren't really saved. *True or False?* Answer: _____

Summary

So I want to briefly summarize what we've just read in James chapter 2. The passage teaches that if people are to realize that a person has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, they must be able to see the person's good works. That's all it's saying. Man looks at your life and judges rightly or wrongly whether you have faith, therefore believers should be the utmost care to maintain a good testimony. This has nothing to do with a person's salvation, but it does have a lot to do with how much influence his life is going to have on other people. We need to make sure that other people see our faith by our works. People need to know that you're a Christian.

QUESTION 11

Man looks at your life and judges rightly or wrongly whether you have faith. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 12

We need to make sure that other people see our faith by our works. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 3: Compare James with Romans 4:1-8

When Abraham "offered" Isaac as a sacrifice it was a type of the sacrifice that God the Father would make with his son Jesus (Gen 22). All of the promises God made to Abraham were to be fulfilled through Isaac. So when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac, Isaac did not just represent a son to Abraham; he was THE son. Sacrificed on Mt. Moriah, the site of the future temple where Israel would make their sacrifices. This offering, in biblical language of Abraham's only son, points in these and many other ways, to the offering of Christ on our behalf (Gen 22:16).

Topic 3: Compare James with Romans 4:1-8

Romans 4:1-2

Assignment

- Please read Genesis 22:1-18 on Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac.

Now when we compare James 2:14 through 24 with the verses in Romans chapter 4—and we're going to be able to do that—we're going to see that the chapter is speaking of the same person, Abraham, and the same issue, his justification, where he is justified by faith and not by works. Now here is the key. I think all of you understand it already and I believe I've proved my point already, but this will prove the point 100%. When anybody uses James, you use Romans 4. If they use James, you use Romans 4, because it explains it. It explains it so clearly that anyone can see it if they want to see it. The chapter is speaking [of] the same person, and let's look at it. Romans 4:1, "What shall we then say then that that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God." Now listen, let's get that verse real good. "If Abraham were justified by

works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.” No man is justified by works before God. Do you see that? Before man you’re justified by works, but not before God. I’ll read it again. “For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.” Now, I want us to see that as clearly as we can possibly see it. We read in James 2:21 that Abraham was justified by his works. Yes, indeed. When he offered Isaac, his son, upon the altar, people realized he had faith and he was considered a great man in the sight of people. His works justified him in the eyes of the people. At that time he could glory in the public acclaim of his great faith. But in the sight of God, he received justification many years before, as was pointed out even before Isaac was born. Okay? Before Isaac was even born, he was already saved. Although God wants us to live the right kind of lives to do good works serving him, He doesn’t need our good works to show Him we have faith. He is a Mind Reader. He knows how we really feel deep down inside. You know, sometimes it’s hard to know how a person really feels, but God knows how we really feel. Man doesn’t have this ability to know perfectly the thoughts of others. One of the hardest things about being a preacher and doing counseling is trying to find out the real true thoughts of people, and trying to get them to open up and say what they really feel. There are so many times we don’t do that. Ezekiel 11:5 says I know the things that come into your mind. Let’s look at it. “And the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the Lord; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.” The Lord seeth not as man seeth. Let’s look at 1 Samuel 16:7, “But the Lord said [unto] Samuel, Look not [on his] countenance, [or] on the height of his stature,” we’ve already read this one, “. . . because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.” God knows your thoughts. He’s very understanding and [it is] very important that you understand this.

QUESTION 13

After Abraham offered Isaac he earned the right to glory before God. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 14

Which of the following verses would be best to use to show someone that God knows our thoughts?

Answer: _____

- A. Ezekiel 11:5
- B. Romans 4:1
- C. James 2:24
- D. Galatians 3:10

Topic 3: Compare James with Romans 4:1-8

Romans 4:3-4

Now the question raised in Romans 4:3, “What does the Bible say about Abraham’s justification?” Let’s look at that. Romans 4:3, “For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted [unto] him for righteousness.” What was counted? His belief. This is referring back to Genesis 15:6 that we’ve quoted several other times. He was justified by what? By his faith. Now verse 4, “Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.” Now I want us to be able to understand this. Salvation is by grace. If you work for something, your pay isn’t by grace. But our salvation is by grace of

our Lord Jesus Christ, and not as the outcome of our works, and it is a good thing salvation is by grace, and not by works, because nobody could be perfect enough for Heaven by works. If a person thinks he [can] get to Heaven by good works, a good question to ask him is, “How many good works do you need?” God says if we sin in just one of these things—you remember in James—if you’re breaking one of the Commandments, you broke them all. We’re imperfect. Even if we have sinned a lot, how many good works would you have to have? How good would you have to be? God doesn’t say “Anyone who is trusting Christ and also trusting his good works to save him.” He never says that. Because salvation is by grace, it cannot be of works. Now let's look at Romans 11:6. This is one of the hardest verses for you to ever learn, because it’s kind of a tongue twister: “And if by grace, [then is] it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then [is] it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.” As you’ve heard me say many times, you can't have ice and steam. You can't have both. You're going to have one or the other. But if you have steam, then you do not have ice, otherwise steam is no more steam. But if you have ice, you don't have steam. You cannot add grace and works together. It does not work. This is one of the greatest curses in Christendom today. In salvation, grace and works are mutually exclusive. Satan is always trying to reverse things in people's minds. He tries to get them to think that to work to be saved, and then tries to get them from working after they are saved—keeps him from working after [he's] saved. He wants you to work to be saved, then after you're saved, he doesn't want you to work. I pray that you wouldn't let Satan ever confuse your message. You know, Satan is just ready, he's gloriously saying, “Man, I want to wreck as many lives as I can.” He’s waiting to pounce on that day that he knows that he can ruin your life. No, if you're saved, he can't get you unsaved, but I'll tell you, he can ruin your life. And Satan just loves to do that. And there's some here right now tonight, Satan cannot wait till he can go and pounce on you and wreck you and wreck your life. And he’s excited about doing it. He’s really excited about doing it.

Assignment:

- Memorize Romans 4:3-4

QUESTION 15

Romans 4:3 refers back to which passage? Answer: _____

- A. Genesis 3:15
- B. Genesis 12:1-3
- C. Genesis 15:6
- D. Genesis 22:11-14

QUESTION 16

Which of the following verses would be best to use to show that grace and works are mutually exclusive?

Answer: _____

- A. 1 Samuel 16:7
- B. Romans 4:3
- C. Romans 11:6
- D. James 2:22

QUESTION 17

What illustration was used to show that grace and works are mutually exclusive?

Answer: _____

- A. Fire and water
- B. Ice and steam
- C. Light and darkness
- D. Oil and water

Topic 3: Compare James with Romans 4:1-8

Romans 4:5

Now Romans 4:5 is one of the clearest verses proving salvation is by faith without works, and let's examine it. Let's look at Romans 4:5, "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Now this is the very same verse that's talking about Abraham. "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Boy, I tell you that is a clear, wonderful verse. [It] clears up James. Remember, always interpret the unclear verse by the hundreds of clear verses. Don't ever interpret the clear verses by the few unclear verses. Now I use "unclear" in the sense that they just need a little bit of explanation. They're not really unclear. It's very important for us to be able to see this. Now let's look at it. "But to him that worketh not" — to him that doesn't do any work at all. You understand that, how clear that is? ". . . But believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly." But he believes on Jesus, Who gave His righteousness to sinners. ". . . His faith is counted for righteousness." God sees the faith, [and] because of his faith, gives him righteousness. Now, we're not going to look at this right now, but Romans 3:28, God judgment of wisdom on the matter. Finally, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

QUESTION 18

Which of the following verses would be good to use to show someone that salvation comes by faith apart from works? (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: _____

- A. Ezekiel 11:5
- B. Romans 3:28
- C. Romans 4:5
- D. Ephesians 2:8-9

QUESTION 19

What principles of Bible interpretation are we using when we use Romans 4 to clear up what James 2 is teaching? (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: _____

- A. Context determines meaning
- B. Interpret the clear passages by the few unclear passages
- C. Interpret the difficult passages by clear passages
- D. Let scripture interpret scripture

Topic 3: Compare James with Romans 4:1-8

Romans 4:6-8

Then referring back to the 32nd Psalm, Romans 4:6 and 8 tells us, “Even as David also [describeth] the blessedness of the man, [unto] whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.” Blessed is the man of whom God says, “I will not charge your sins to you. I have paid for them myself.” God says this, however, only to the man who trusts Christ alone for his salvation. Got never says this to the man who tries to get to Heaven by his own works in full or in part. In trying to lead a person to the Lord, answer his questions as briefly and simply as you can. Agree with him Abraham was justified by his works, but not before God. Go into detail only as you have to. If the person does not, for some reason, seem to understand the true meaning of James chapter 2 even after you have explained it to him using Roman chapter 4, we recommend that you take him back to Ephesians 2:8 and 9 and stay there awhile with him. If by this time he doesn't see it, if by this time he doesn't see it, perhaps the problem doesn't come from a particular passage like in James, but rather in a complete lack of comprehension. That's what we want to be able to see the difference. A total lack of comprehension. Go over it again. Stay with a clear, positive Scripture, and let him see it over and over again. “For by grace are ye saved through faith.” Oh, how important, dear people, that we make that gospel clear. How important it is that you witness to those around you. Faith is by belief only. These two verses back here, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; [and] that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Isn't that clear? I hope we cleared that up. Listen, you say, “But then, Pastor, what do I have to do to be saved? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and believe that He paid all your sin debt, and you will be saved. That's all you have to do to be saved. “You mean all I have to do to go to Heaven is believe?” That's right, all you have to do to go to Heaven is believe. Totally believe, that's all you have to do. Have the faith of a child. Have the faith of a child.

QUESTION 20

Which of the following Old Testament passages does Paul quote in Romans 4:6-8?

Answer: _____

- A. Psalms 22:8
- B. Psalms 32:1-2
- C. Psalms 51:1-4
- D. Psalms 72:12-14

Lesson 17 Answers to Questions

QUESTION 1: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.”

QUESTION 2

C. Those who are of faith [Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness.]

QUESTION 3: True [God promised that all the nations of the world would be blessed through

Abraham came especially through Jesus who was his physical descendant (Gen 12:1-3).]

QUESTION 4: True [It must be kept perfectly and that is impossible to do. There are so many laws we break every day. The only way you are going to live is by faith.]

QUESTION 5: False [Faith is something you show by your actions not something you say with your voice.]

QUESTION 6: True [This is true for Abraham’s after salvation faith but Abraham’s work had nothing to do with his salvation, for he was already saved.]

QUESTION 7: False [This is always something to look for when you hear an unfamiliar Christian’s message.]

QUESTION 8: True [You can tell people you love God and you can tell people how spiritual you are, but they need to see it.]

QUESTION 9: False [God knows what kind of people we are and what our faith is. We do not have the ability to judge as God does.]

QUESTION 10: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

“But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.”

QUESTION 11: True [Believers should take the utmost care to maintain a good testimony.]

QUESTION 12: True [This has nothing to do with a person’s salvation, but a lot to do with how much influence his life is going to have on other people.]

QUESTION 13: False [Before man you are justified by works, but not before God.]

QUESTION 14

A. Ezekiel 11:5 [It is very important that you understand that God understands your thoughts.]

QUESTION 15

C. Genesis 15:6 [Again, this was many years before Isaac was even born, when James says Abraham was justified by works.]

QUESTION 16

C. Romans 11:6 [Satan tries to get people to think that you need to work to be saved and then tries to keep them from working after they get saved.]

QUESTION 17

B. Ice and steam

QUESTION 18

B. Romans 3:28

C. Romans 4:5

D. Ephesians 2:8-9

[These three verses clearly teach that salvation is apart from works.]

QUESTION 19

C. Interpret the difficult passages by clear passages

D. Let scripture interpret scripture

[Always interpret the unclear verse by the hundreds of clear verses to let scripture interpret scripture.]

QUESTION 20

B. Psalms 32:1-2 [Blessed is the man of whom God says, “I will not charge your sins to you.”]