JUSTIFIED
BY
WORKS

James 2:14-26

DEAD FAITH

- The premise is plainly stated at the start and finish (Jas. 2:14, 26).
- He uses the previous discussion to illustrate (Jas. 2:15–16).
- Faith is something that can be proven (Jas. 2:18).
- Demons have a faith without works (Jas. 2:19).
- Abraham was justified by works (Jas. 2:21–24).
- Rahab was justified by works (Jas. 2:25).

JAMES AND THE REFORMERS

- Every commentary starts by saying Paul taught salvation by faith alone.

- "James isn't talking about salvation" (Jas. 2:14).

- "Justification can mean different things" (Jas. 2:21–23; 25).

- They contradict themselves:

"They argue that faith is not primarily "interior" or "emotional" but "exterior" and "embodied." In other words, faith is *active* rather than *passive*, and it should be *seen* rather than *felt*. So they prefer slogans such as "justification by allegiance alone," since allegiance underscores the active nature of faith." – David Briones

"It's as if Christ's seed of righteousness should be planted into your heart. It becomes your own. And it is up to you, in dependence on the Spirit and the sacraments, to water it and grow in personal righteousness." – David Briones

"It is therefore an alien righteousness — it comes from outside of us. And it is graciously imputed, counted, or reckoned to those who have no inherent righteousness whatsoever (Romans 3:9, 23; Ephesians 2:1–3). We are indeed "dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne." For nothing else avails before God."– David Briones

"And as soon as you say that this faith is going to bear fruit, people shift back into their legalistic mode of "Oh, I see. We're really justified by our works." And it takes a lifetime of fighting that battle." – John Piper

"Because what the Bible says is, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). And you believe that, <u>and you do it</u>, and you will find it to be true. It will be true of you. If you call upon the name of the Lord, you will be saved." – John Piper