

# Pure Religion

Faith Proven (Part 2) – James 2:14-26  
March 18, 2018

You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.  
- James 2:24

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.  
- Romans 3:20

## I. THE WORD OF GOD

- We believe that the Bible is the inspired, eternal, infallible and sufficient word of God; inerrant in the original manuscripts; and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct (Ps. 12:6; 119:43; Prov. 30:5; Isa. 40:8; Matt. 24:35; John 14:26; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).
- The scripture does not contradict itself because God does not contradict himself (Num. 23:19; 1 Sam. 15:29; 2 Cor. 4:1-2).

## II. JAMES AND PAUL ON JUSTIFICATION

- What do James and Paul mean by the word “justification”?  
**James:** Justification is our declared righteousness before God that is demonstrated to be real by good works (James 2:1, 17, 18, 22).  
**Paul:** Justification is our declared righteousness before God that has as its basis only our dependence upon Christ (Rom. 3:28; 4:5; 5:1).
- James and Paul agree with each other.  
**James:** (Acts 15:19-21; James 1:6; 2:1; 2:22).  
**Paul:** (Rom. 2:9; Gal. 5:5-6; Titus 1:16; 2:11-14; 3:4-8).

## III. HOW AM I SAVED, AND FOR HOW LONG?

- You are saved by grace through faith—leading naturally to good works (Eph. 2:8-10).
- If you are saved, you are Christ’s, and he is yours. Nothing will ever change that (John 10:26-30; Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; 3:12).

**KNOW:** James and Paul agree. Faith is primary in justification; good works bring faith to light. We are saved by the grace of God so that good works may result.

**DO:** Do good works in keeping with your repentance (Luke 3:8).

### Recommended Reading:

*Justification: Being Made Right with God - A Christian Pocket Guide*

by Guy Waters (available 3/20/18 LifePoint Library #230 WAT)

\**The Whole Christ* by Sinclair Ferguson

\*This is an advanced read, but I highly recommend it!

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read James 2:14-26 & Romans 3:20

1. What is the apparent discrepancy between James and Paul?
2. After hearing Sunday’s message, have the discrepancies been cleared up for you? What questions remain?
3. How would you sum up both James’s and Paul’s arguments related to justification? In other words, how is one saved according to both?
4. What is LifePoint’s stance on the Bible? What do we teach and believe?
5. Can a genuine follower of Christ lose his/her salvation? What are your thoughts?
6. How does all this information impact your walk with Christ?