

Pastor

James says the reason faith without works is dead is because it is "alone". People teaching about what James taught almost always leave that part out. James is not saying that faith does not exist if there aren't any works.

And works are not the evidence of faith. If it was then everyone who does something good would be a believer. In ch.2 James is simply saying that for our faith to be visible to others we have to do something.

But, the only way we can know that what a man does comes from real spiritual faith is through the spiritual discernment God gives to those who "by reason of use have exercised their senses to discern between good and evil".

Coach

I never said faith didn't exist without works.....I said faith was evidence and substance of what you believe. Works are proof of what you believe.

Do you simply have faith in your light switch...or do you turn it on...act upon what you believe? Real faith expects the light to come on when you hit the switch. That is works...acting on your belief....

We do all kinds of things in faith...believing...without even thinking about it...

Belief is turning on the light switch....that requires faith in the process because we have done it so many times before...

Ever try to close an abortion clinic....why not?

Pastor

So I guess what you are saying is that trying to close down abortion clinics proves you have faith? But, the question is, faith in what?

The only way to know what that faith is in, what motivates the person who tries to close abortion clinics, is to listen to what they say about what the belief is that is motivating them. You can't know just by seeing them trying to close abortion clinics. Many good moral people who haven't the first clue about who Jesus is are at the forefront of that struggle.

So the actual picture James is painting is a confessed belief in God whose works agree with that belief so that the faith can be seen by others. Not that works prove, or are evidence for, that belief. Because if that were true then we prove we are saved when we try to close down abortion clinics. And would prove we are not saved if we do not try.

Faith alone is all that we need for salvation. It is only so that our faith can be seen by others that works accompany it. But, God looks on the heart. Man looks on the outward appearance.

Coach

Nope....my faith compels me to "rescue those who are unjustly lead to slaughter." That is DUTY...not faith.

I'm not talking about faith towards salvation...I'm talking about faith AFTER salvation....

Have you ever been to an abortion clinic?

Pastor

Yes. But, not to prove I have faith. I was pro life before I became a Christian because I knew that murder is wrong.

Coach

and....does your "faith" compel you to do anything about murder....other than pray God will end it?

Pastor

The murder of the unborn has gotten more prolific, not less, since the pro life industry began. So standing in front of abortion mills hasn't accomplished it's stated goals. Why?

This is because the murder of the unborn, abortion, is a lack of being spiritual problem. Not a natural one. Those protesting against it have gotten their focus off of the main reason Jesus came. The only way it will ever stop, whether the SCOTUS re-criminalizes it or not, is for those who do not know Jesus to come to a saving faith in Him.

This is why I do not preach a social gospel that focuses on works. But, instead I preach Christ and Him crucified. Just as all who claim the name of Jesus should.

Many who call themselves Christian think we are here to make this a better world. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, Jesus said things would get so bad before He comes again that if He did not shorten the days no flesh would be saved. Paul said in the last days many would reject sound doctrine. The sound doctrine that motivates us to focus on telling as many as will hear about the saving power of Jesus for eternal life.

Most who call themselves believers do not even know what the Bible actually says happens when a man is born again. If we will teach more of this so that they can really come to know and trust in Jesus the social problem will take care of itself.

Coach

I speak about pastors like you often. I know many....read John 10...Isaiah 56:10

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+10&version=KJV>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+56%3A9-12&version=KJV>

Pastor

Can you tell me what actually happens when a person is born again and why it is that everyone needs to be?

I read both John10 and Is.56:10. So?

Coach

So...."The shepherd leads them out." Out from where? To where? The "thief sees the wolf coming...". Who is the thief? Who is the Wolfe? Which one are you?

The thief is the cowardly watchman in Is 56. The wolf is the Devil

Which are you?

Pastor

The shepherd is Jesus, not you. Nowhere is man referred to as the shepherd. You may be the hireling. But, you and I are not, nor will you or I ever be, the shepherd. Our job is to point others to Jesus to be led by Him. The one and only good shepherd.

Jesus said "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR THE SHEEP."

The wolf is satan. Satan is a master at perverting the scriptures. Those who pervert the scriptures are working for him. Social gospel preachers lead them as if they are the shepherd. They lead them to be scattered by the wolf.

But, those who do as Jesus said will point as many as will hear to the door(Jesus) that opens for eternal life. To be led by the good shepherd Jesus Christ.

In Mark4 Jesus said there are things that choke the word to make it unfruitful. The cares of this life tops that list. The social gospel is all about the cares of this life. Don't be caught up in the minutia of the cares

of this life that satan uses to cause the word to be unfruitful. Focus on Jesus so that you can point others to Him so they can be led by Him in eternal life.

Can you tell me what the Bible says actually happens to a man when he is born again? If not I will be happy to tell you.

Coach

You better read that again.....

John is talking about the hireling....he identifies the thief in the first verse....the fake pastor...the one who WON'T lead his sheep out.

There is a THIEF and a WOLFE....the THIEF sees the WOLF and runs...it seems to me the sheep are already saved....and the pastor runs when things get tough....the hireling pastor runs when he sees the wolf...the Devil.....

Pretty clear to me. Pastoring is more than getting people SAVED...it is training them to fight the wolf....

Sorry if you cant see that

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010&version=KJV>

Pastor

I pasted the verses where Jesus said He is the shepherd. So you think that when Jesus said He is the shepherd He was lying?! No wonder you do not understand this parable.

John's reference to the hireling is a reference to pastors, teachers, and evangelists. The sheep are those who have professed a belief in Jesus. But, those who are in it for the wrong reasons, both sheep and hirelings, are exposed as such when they scatter when the wolf(satan) comes. The true believer does not scatter because he has nothing to fear from him. He submits to God, resists the devil, and the devil flees from him.

If Jesus is not in you by the Holy Spirit, whether sheep or hireling, you will scatter when the wolf comes. Scatter is to fall prey to the wolf's deceptions like the false social gospel full of the cares of this life, deceitfulness of riches, and desires for other things teachings that choke the word and make it unfruitful.

It is not the pastor's, the teacher's, or the evangelist's job to protect the sheep. It is their job to point them to Jesus so they can trust in Him for that protection.

Coach

Of course he is the Shepherd.....

Aren't YOU one? Isn't a pastor a shepherd?

You're grasping at straws now.

Jesus isn't HERE to Pastor a flock...that is YOUR job

Quit passing the buck

Pastor

You have mistakenly believed the rcc construct for the church. Jesus said their construct is just as the gentiles who have benefactors that rule over them. And that we are not to be so in Luke22:23-27. Sheep do not rule over or lead other sheep. We are to minister to one another. 1Peter4:8-11. And be ruled over and led by the good shepherd Jesus Christ.

No, pastors are not shepherds. They are sheep. Just as evangelists and teachers and any other person with a ministry gift are.

Jesus' is the only death that made any difference for the sheep. Jesus is the door the sheep go through for eternal life. Jesus' voice is the voice the sheep know and follow. If we follow men we have joined a cult.

Any pastor who says he is a shepherd is the thief and hireling in the parable that scatters when the wolf comes. And anyone who believes their pastor is their shepherd are sheep that will also scatter when the wolf comes. Because they are both there for the wrong reasons.

Preach a social gospel filled with the cares of this life for maximum affect for the things of this world. Preach Christ and Him crucified as the apostles did for maximum affect for the kingdom of God.

Coach

<https://newswithviews.com/christian-resistance-in-this-dark-hour/>

Thank you Dave. That message lays the ground work for a better world without Christ as it's king. Why? Because Jesus said this is how things will go before He returns-

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

So the church is to be preaching the gospel so that as many as are willing to hear will come to a saving faith in Jesus. All these things Jesus said WILL happen WILL happen and no amount of protests or calls for repentance will stop it. You do believe Jesus, right? Jesus prophesied it will happen. So it will happen. It's really that simple.

So the thing we must be doing in all of this is to trust that God has all this under control, and make sure that we are preaching the gospel, He came- He died- He rose- He lives(1Cor.15:1-4), preach Christ and Him crucified(1Cor.2:2), to as many as will hear. So that as many as will hear and turn to faith in the Jesus of the Bible will have eternal life. Not only a better life now.

A focus on making THIS world a better place is to reject, and even fight against, God's prophesied plan that Jesus laid out in the verses I showed you here. Don't you see that? A focus on sharing the gospel so that as many as will believe it will come into the kingdom of God as possible is how we come into agreement with God's plan. Don't let the cares of this world choke the word that has been planted in your heart and make it unfruitful.