

STEWARDSHIP OF WORKS

SCRIPTURES: Genesis 39
 Luke 16:1-13; 10:31, 32; 19:8-10
 Mark 12:38-40
 Romans 1:5
 Matthew 5:16
 1 Corinthians 3:10-15
 2 Corinthians 5:10
 James 2:14-26—Do inductive study (See page 48-6 for instructions.)

MEMORIZE: Ephesians 2:8-10

We have been so careful in preaching the gospel of grace that we have given sinners the impression that works are not important. In fact we have created a non-gospel that does not demand repentance. If a person has “made a decision”, that person is saved. It doesn’t matter how ill-defined the Gospel. He’s a convert. This is the Gospel that depends on a quick, memorized presentation and presses for a decision on the spot. The person may have no real conviction of sin, no understanding of the Person of Christ or of His substitutionary death.

What is the relationship between faith and works? What is the purpose of the Gospel? Is it merely to rescue us from hell while it leaves us living like the devil here? No! The Gospel is meant to restore us to a right relationship with God, to bring us to the place where we are living in harmony with Him. Salvation produces good works. If it does not produce good works, there is reason to question the validity of the claim to be born-again.

This is an important point to clarify when witnessing to “good” religious people. They usually get the impression that salvation by grace through faith is a license to sin. This becomes a great hindrance to keep them from believing. Once the situation is clarified so that they understand that salvation does not come through works, but that works are a result of salvation, they are more open to the Bible’s message. If you are unclear on this point, you need to clarify it, too. “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves” (2 Corinthians 13:5a).

1. Compare the stewardship of Joseph (Genesis 39) and the unrighteous steward (Luke 16:1-13) in reference to good works.

S48-2

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS

2. What does the Bible say about a profession of faith that is not supported by good works?

Titus 1:16

Jude 4

Jude 17-19

3. What is your opinion of the two religious men who left a dying countryman to die? Luke 10:31, 32.
4. Compare the external religious practices of the scribes with their business practices in Mark 12:38-40. Were they true believers?

FAITH WITH WORKS

5. What was Paul's purpose in preaching faith among the Gentiles? Romans 1:5
6. Why does God save the repentant and believing sinner? Ephesians 2:8-10
7. Will any good works do?
8. What are the consequences of true faith?

1 Thessalonians 1:3

2 Timothy 3:13-17

Titus 1:1

Titus 2:14

Titus 3:8

9. What evidence convinced Jesus that Zaccheus was saved? Luke 19:8-10

10. How does this compare with the evidence we accept for a person's salvation?

11. What impact will good works have in evangelism? Matthew 5:16

12. What is the future prospect for the Christian who does good works?
1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10

13. What is the prospect for the Christian who does not do good works?

14. Using the chart on page 48-5, do an inductive study of James 2:14-26. In the two columns, list the contrasting remarks between the person insisting that he can demonstrate faith without works and the one who claims that faith can only be demonstrated by good works. Use your imagination to create a dialogue. Place the four major statements about faith and works on the four lines in the center of the page.

After you complete the inductive study, answer the following questions:
15. Is there any evidence that the person in the left column is saved? What statement from the passage would you use to support your view?

S48-4

16. What words are repeated in the text, that help us understand what James is talking about when he says that we are justified by works as well as faith?

17. Write a personal testimony, including the following:
How God changed your life immediately at salvation; how your life has changed since that time in the area of good works; your goals for stewardship in the area of good works.

FAITH WITH WORKS

JAMES 2:14-16

? Is he saved?

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS

2:14

2:15, 16

2:17

2:18

2:19

2:20

2:21

2:22

2:23

2:24

2:25

2:26
