

James 2

My brethren, hold not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. 2 For if there come into your synagogue a man with a gold ring, in fine clothing, and there come in also a poor man in vile clothing; 3 and ye have regard to him that weareth the fine clothing, and say, Sit thou here in a good place; and ye say to the poor man, Stand thou there, or sit under my footstool;

4 do ye not make distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren; did not God choose them that are poor as to the world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have dishonoured the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you, and themselves drag you before the judgment-seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme the honourable name by which ye are called? 8 Howbeit if ye fulfil the royal law, according to the scripture, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well:

9 but if ye have respect of persons, ye commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is become guilty of all.

11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou dost not commit adultery, but killest, thou art become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak ye, and so do, as men that are to be judged by a law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to him that hath showed no mercy: mercy glorieth against judgment.

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, if a man say he hath faith, but have not works? can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked and in lack of daily food, 16 and one of you say unto them, Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled; and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself. 18 Yea, a man will say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith apart from thy works, and I by my works will show thee my faith.

19 Thou believest that God is one; thou doest well: the demons also believe, and shudder.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith apart from works is barren?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Thou seest that faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect;

23 and the scripture was fulfilled which saith, And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God.

24 Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith.

25 And in like manner was not also Rahab the harlot justified by works, in that she received the messengers, and sent them out another way?

26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. Why shouldn't we elevate people above others?
2. Why is Jesus called the, 'Lord of glory'?
3. What are we saying, when we give special attention to some and not others?
4. Are the rich better than the poor?
5. Are we capable of judging other people fairly?
6. What does it mean 'to harken'?
7. Is it true that the poor are rich in faith?
8. Why does God love us even though we are sinners?
9. Are the rich, more likely to oppress you than the poor and blaspheme God?
10. What are God's 'royal laws'?
11. The breaking of any law constitutes to the breaking of all the laws!
12. Law breakers are condemned sinners?
13. Who will be judged by the 'law of liberty'?
14. When we don't show mercy to others, we become enemies of God.
15. Why is it a problem to God if we say, but don't do?
16. What is dead faith?
17. What are demons?
18. Where do they come from?
19. Vanity was birthed in Heaven before sin came to the earth.
20. Abraham learned to send his faith off to work, have you?
21. For faith to be perfected what needs to happen?
22. How do we become a friend of God?
23. So, if we are justified by works, can we earn our salvation?
24. What did Rahab do to justify herself before God?
25. What is it to be spiritually dead?
26. How do we bring our faith alive?