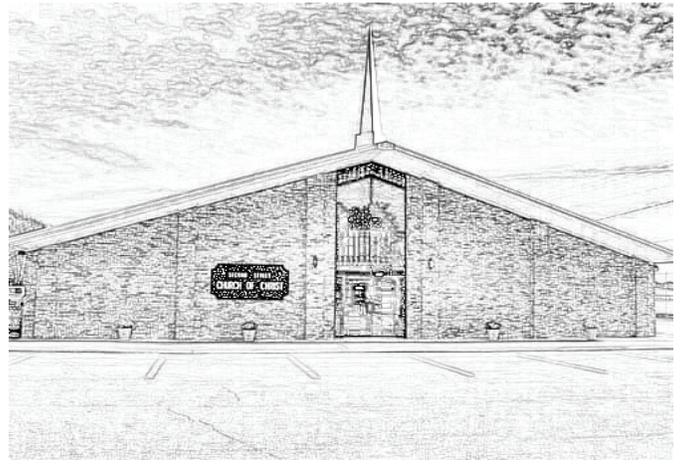


# Second Street Church of Christ



January 18, 2015

## James' Discussion of Faith and Works in its Context

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### SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class.....9:00am  
Sunday Morn. Worship.10:00am  
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm  
Wednesday Evening.....7:00pm

*Endeavouring to keep  
the unity of the Spirit in  
the bond of peace.  
Ephesians 4:3*

“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:14-26, KJV)

We see Christians often take this passage as a proof-text against the doctrine of faith-only salvation. However, while there is a means of making such a case from this passage, that is not the purpose for which the writer includes this section.

You see, James is writing to Christians, to those who are already members of the body of Christ. So take a moment and consider the exact question that James is asking. If God asked you to prove your faith by your deeds right now, could you do it? As a Christian, you claim belief in God, faith in his word, and dedication to his cause: can you prove it? Do the things found in your life indicate in any way that you are different from the rest of the world, or that you love your brethren like your own family? Your words are not enough, a man requires more to be justified before God than words from a pew. What does your life say? Christians, how would you answer? Is your faith alive or dead?

As a final note, there is a case that can be made from this passage against faith only and it is this: if a Christian cannot be justified before God with only the words of his faith, how can a non-Christian?

January 17, 2015

# What's Going On?

"I must do something" will always solve more problems than "Something must be done."



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: Sunday      Wednesday  
Circle one: Morning      Evening

Songs We Sang:

No.	No.	No.	No.
No.	No.	No.	No.



My favorite song we sang is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Write Down The Title of the Sermon and Bible Verses Here:**

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Count How Many Times You Hear These Words:

Jesus

God

Heaven

Pray

cont from pg 3....need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" 2 Peter 1.3 CEB. "Everything we need!" Isn't that a comforting thought!?

If we are in Christ, we have it all, for "Christ is all" Colossians 3.11. The Lord Jesus Christ is the repository for "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" Colossians 2.3.

**How would you answer these questions?**

You can certainly find other wonderful ways to answer these questions. It's important, however, that we seek to answer them to the satisfaction and salvation of those who are considering the commitment of following God's Chosen One.

We'd be interested in hearing, below, how you would answer these two questions.

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Welcome Visitors!

Trays for January

Michelle Holcomb

**Trays for 2015** - There is a sign up list on the board in the back. If you can please sign up for a month.

**Sign up Sheet** for singings and fellowship is on the board in the back.

**Ladies Fund Due** see Rajama or Rada.



Don't forget about your Bible Reading!!

People take your examples far more seriously than they take your advise.

## Two Questions People ask Before Converting

In a book about influencing others, the authors say that two questions must be answered before a person can be persuaded to perform a certain action. First, is it worth doing? Second, can I do it?

Every saint of God works to persuade others to become followers of Christ. The above questions are pertinent to the mission of the church, since many people ask them about the Way. They may be answered fully and satisfactorily from Scripture. The Bible holds an abundance of texts that address them, as well as stories and parables that illustrate well such answers.

### **Is it worth becoming a Christian?**

So many good replies may be given to this question, that it's hard to know where to start. Let's start at the end.

Yes, it's worth becoming a Christian because of the final judgment. The day of judgment serves as a strong and worthy motivation both for hearers of the Good News and those who are already followers of the Chosen One.

Preaching to the Athenians on Areopagus, the apostle Paul chose judgment day as a major motivation for repentance.

Therefore, although God has overlooked such times of ignorance, he now commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness, by a man whom he designated, having provided proof to everyone by raising him from the dead.  
Acts 17.30-31

Before the governor Felix, "Paul was discussing righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment" Acts 24.47. The thought frightened the governor, even if he didn't respond properly.

The "coming wrath" was evidently a major theme in his evangelization of the Thessalonians as well.

For people everywhere report how you welcomed us and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus our deliverer from the coming wrath.<sup>1</sup> Thessalonians 1.9-10

Yes, indeed, it's worth becoming a Christian in order to be delivered from the "coming wrath"! This decision has great value.

Peter shows the worth of the faith through his first letter, often by use of the word "precious." Perhaps the saints to whom he wrote began to question the value of their possession as they faced persecution. Their faith, refined and purified, is more valuable than gold, 1 Peter 1.7. The blood of Christ that ransoms "like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb" is precious, 1 Peter 1.19. Peter says that Christ himself is "a living stone rejected by men but chosen and precious in God's sight" 1 Peter 2.4, and backs that up by quoting Scripture that he is a "chosen and precious stone", v. 6. "You who believe see his value," he observes and encourages, v. 7.

Finally, Peter says to women in Christ with pagan husbands that they ought to value what God values: "the inner person of the heart, the lasting beauty of a gentle and tranquil spirit, which is precious in God's sight" 1 Peter 3.4.

Is it worth it? Time and again the inspired writers give us all kinds of positive reasons.

### **Can I do it?**

The second question that influencers must answer in the minds of those they want to convince is the possibility of success. Again, Scripture supplies an abundance of material.

If we think of human power, the answer of course would be no. But we know that no one is saved by self-effort. With God, however, all things are possible.

Since we mentioned Peter's letter above, we can also see that he provides an answer to this question as well. "You are attaining the goal of your faith—the salvation of your souls" 1 Peter 1.9. It's happening, you're doing it, the goal is being reached, he says.

In his greeting Peter mentions all three persons of the Godhead, and in the first chapter he details what each one does to make salvation possible for the saints: regeneration by the Father, vv. 3-5, the coming of Christ who brings salvation, as the goal of faith, vv. 6-9, and the revelation of the gospel by the Holy Spirit, vv. 10-12. Framing the whole chapter are the power of God, v. 5, and the word of God, v. 23. God is in this, from start to finish.

And when God calls, he gives the means to answer. "His divine power has given us everything we *cont on pg 2*

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

**Bible Study**      **9:00am**  
**Worship**          **10:00am**  
**Evening**          **5:00pm**

### Wednesday

**Bible Study**      **7:00pm**

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**Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

*Hebrews 10:25*

The process for becoming a Christian is the same as it was over 2000 years ago! To become a Christian, one must:

*Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17*

*Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6*

*Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3*

*Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10*

*Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38*

*Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10*

None of these alone will make you a Christian. These commands are from God and must be obeyed from the heart to become a Christian.

### Prayer List



Faye Johnson	Paula Wanner
Norma Taylor	Joey Pierce
Craig Pierce	Trisha Johnson
Stephanie Moore	Brooke Cannon
Larry Wells	Becky Raper
Clarence Brown	Phillip Pharr
Cathy Gober	Dianne Vandagriff

### Sympathy

Sally Stone Family  
Wanda Stephens Family

### January Birthdays



**Bonnie Holcomb 1/1**

**Geralda Brown 1/6**

**Corey Tidwell 1/10**

**Doris Vandagriff 1/17**

**Jzaac Johnson 1/29**

**John Williams 1/29**

### January Anniversaries