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TRANSFORMED!
*Knowing & Doing
God's Will*

FOCAL PASSAGES FOR TODAY'S STUDY:

❖ **JAMES 2:14-26**

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ROMANS 12:2

Do not be conformed to this age, but be **TRANSFORMED**
by the renewing of your mind, **so that you may discern what is
the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.**

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Faith Alone or Faith+Works?

- ❖ This very important question arose last week but we were unable to adequately discuss it due to time constraints.
- ❖ It is perhaps the most important question in Christian theology, so we will take time today to discuss it further.
- ❖ But this question is not new, it was one of the key issues that gave rise to the Protestant Reformation.

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The Five Solas

By Grace alone, through Faith alone,
in Christ alone, according to Scripture
alone, for God's Glory alone.

The five *solas* are five Latin phrases popularized during the **Protestant Reformation** that emphasized the distinctions between the early Reformers and the Roman Catholic Church.

1. ***Sola scriptura*** (Scripture alone): emphasizes the Bible alone as the sole source of authority for Christians, rather than the words of the Pope. (2 Peter 1:20-21, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. ***Sola gratia*** (Grace alone): emphasizes grace as the reason for our salvation, which comes from what God has done rather than what we do. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
3. ***Sola fide*** (Faith alone): emphasizes that salvation is a free gift to all who accept it by faith. Salvation is not based on human effort or good deeds. (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9)
4. ***Solo Christo*** (Christ alone): Salvation comes through Christ alone rather than through priests as intermediaries. (Hebrews 4:15)
5. ***Soli Deo gloria*** (to the glory of God alone): Only God receives glory for our salvation. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

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What Do Baptists Believe?

SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. **There is no salvation apart from personal faith** in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Baptist Faith and Message
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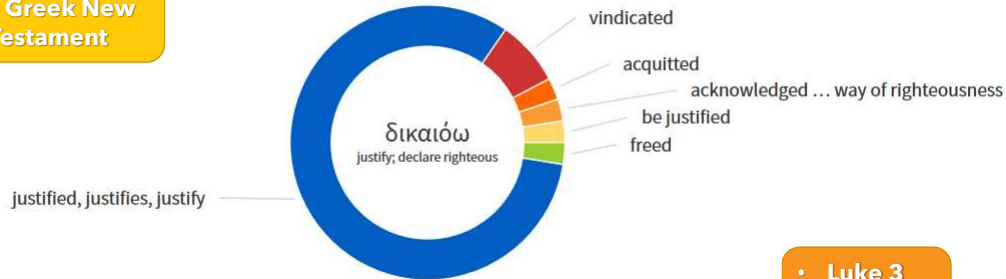
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Justified (Gk: *dikaioō*)

To be or become judicially vindicated as having complied with the requirements of the Law of God.

Used 39 Times in
the Greek New
Testament



- Luke 3
- James 3
- Paul 33

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Justification by Faith

Paul's view is crystal clear across all his writings. According to Paul, justification is by faith alone, apart from works.

- ❖ **Romans 3:22-24:** The righteousness of God is **through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe**, since there is no distinction. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
- ❖ **Romans 3:28:** For we conclude that **a person is justified by faith** apart from the works of the law.
- ❖ **Romans 5:1:** Therefore, since **we have been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ **Galatians 3:24:** The law, then, was our guardian until Christ, so that we could be **justified by faith**.
- ❖ **Ephesians 2:8-9:** For you are saved **by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves**; it is God's gift — not from works, so that no one can boast.

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Justification by Faith+Works?



But what about James 2:24?



Does James contradict Paul?



The book of James was written first, is Paul correcting James?

James 2:24

*"You see that **a person is justified by works** and not by faith alone."*

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How then do we resolve this apparent conflict?

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All Scripture is God Breathed

SCRIPTURE

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is **a perfect treasure of divine instruction**. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and **truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter**. Therefore, **all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy...**

Baptist Faith and Message
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**UNDERSTANDING
THE CONTEXT
OF JAMES IS
CRITICAL!**

James 2:14-26

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him?

¹⁵If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works. ¹⁹You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder.

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James 2:14-26

²⁰Senseless person! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless? ²¹Wasn't Abraham our father justified by works in offering Isaac his son on the altar? ²²You see that faith was active together with his works, and by works, faith was made complete, ²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵In the same way, wasn't Rahab the prostitute also justified by works in receiving the messengers and sending them out by a different route? ²⁶For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

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James 2:14-26

Who are the "subjects" of James dissertation?

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if **someone claims to have faith** but does not have works? Can such faith save him? ← Counterfeit Faith

¹⁵If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself. ← False faith. All talk, no walk.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works. ¹⁹You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder.

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²⁴Perfect, finished, accomplished, proven. person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵In the same way the prostitute also justified by works in receiving the messengers and sending them out by a different route? ²⁶For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. ← It is not true faith.

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Faith Without Works is Dead

James' goal is to refute the belief that a person can have faith without producing any good works.

His argument is that works are the evidence of true faith – authentic faith finds fulfillment in action.

Faith and deeds are as essential to each other as the body and the spirit.

Faith Evidenced by Works

"It appears certain that **James is speaking of the manifestation, not of the imputation of righteousness**, as if he had said, Those who are justified by faith prove their justification by obedience and good works, not by a bare and imaginary semblance of faith. In one word, **he is not discussing the mode of justification, but requiring that the justification of all believers shall be operative**. And as Paul contends that men are justified without the aid of works, so **James will not allow any to be regarded as Justified who are destitute of good works.**"

John Calvin

Institutes of the Christian Religion 3:17:12
(Henry Beveridge, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1966 reprint, 2: 115)

**"We are saved by faith alone,
but the faith that saves is
never alone."**

Martin Luther



Living Faith

"Faith is a living, restless thing. It cannot be inoperative. We are not saved by works; but if there be no works, there must be something amiss with faith."

Martin Luther

(as quoted by Roland Bainton in his biography of Luther, *Here I Stand*, VIII 361).

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Jesus Said it Best

16You'll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18A good tree can't produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20So you'll recognize them by their fruit.

Matt. 7:16-20

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TRANSFORMED!
*Knowing & Doing
God's Will*

**Faith without works
is like a song you
can't sing. It's about
as useless as a screen
door on a submarine.**

Rich Mullins

- ❖ **Justification by faith is an essential Christian doctrine and it is central to Paul's teaching in the Book of Romans.**
- ❖ **Understanding this basic tenet of our faith is crucial to understanding the overall message of Romans.**
- ❖ **Salvation by grace through faith does not give us license to sin nor does it give us a free pass on works.**
- ❖ **Works are important, just not salvific. As Paul says later in Romans; "Each of us will give an account of himself to God."**
(Romans 14:12)