

JAMES 2; December 10; When Do Works Justify?

ANALYSIS:

1. Of what are you guilty if you respect the rich and despise the poor?

2. What is called the royal law? _____

3. When was Abraham justified by works? _____

4. When was Rahab justified by works? _____

5. When is faith declared to be dead? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

In seeking to correct the problem of partiality in the church, James reminds his brethren that God is specially gracious to the poor. "Hath not God chosen the poor in this world ... ?" (v 5). This plain inquiry teaches while righting a wrong. Paul likewise writes, "God hath chosen the foolish things ... weak ... base ... despised ... which are not ... that no flesh should glory in his presence" (I Cor 1:27-29). James reminds his hearers that their troubles and persecution came from the "rich men" who "blaspheme" the name of Christ. As we observe the company of believers the Lord has chosen to salvation, we find ourselves among the poor of this world. Rejoice in this added assurance of our election of God. We look forward to the kingdom our Lord has promised to them that love Him.

Let us fight our fleshly tendencies to pay more attention to a brother or sister who appears to be "rich" and not neglect those who appear to be "poor." May we be free of partiality and respect of persons.

HELP:

1. You are partial in yourselves, and become judges of evil thoughts (v 4); you commit sin and are convinced of the law as transgressors (v 9).

2. Love thy neighbor as thyself (v 8).

3. When he offered Isaac his son upon the altar (v 21).

4. When she had received the messengers (spies) and had sent them out another way (v 25).

5. When faith is alone without works, which support and demonstrate the presence of faith (vs 17, 20, 26).