“Useless Faith”

Intro: __________ is not seen, but its __________ are.

A. James presents two kinds of faith. One is described as a useless faith which is dead, flawed, and __________. The other as a working faith which is identified as living, perfect, abiding, enduring, and __________.

1. Each faith can be identified by its effect, how it manifests itself, what it __________, by the outcome of that faith.

James 2:14-20

I. While some claim that this teaches salvation by works, we know that it is not about works but __________ faith, and the works that such a faith __________.

A. We must __________ against the __________ that would say that both faith and works are necessary to salvation.

1. Good works do not result in salvation, but are the result of ____ Christ Jesus.

2. It is not that works are the added extra ingredient necessary to salvation, but that good works are the essential ______________ of saving faith.

II. Faith that does not manifest itself in good works is not of God and is __________ for it cannot __________ the man. (Emphasis on the faith, not the works).

A. James’ original audience was the Jewish believers. He is telling them (and us) that ______________ by __________ accounts for nothing.

1. According to Romans 2, one can make all the claims they want, but actions speak louder than words! Ones’ actions are the ______________ of their heart and therefore, it is right and just that God will render unto every man according to his deeds. Faith is as __________ ________!”

B. The kind of a faith that does not motivate the person to do good is not from God and is ______________ to save. It is a ______ - ________ faith.

C. Verses 15 & 16 illustrate useless faith. Just as it would be absolutely worthless to wish somebody well and not minister in some practical way (good work) relieving them of their plight, so is a faith ______________ if it does not __________ in good works.

1. 1 John 3:17-18 says, "But whoever has the world's goods, and
beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in ___________ _______ _________.” There is faith revealed!

2. Just as ones’ compassionate statement for the poor is of no value unless it is accompanied with practical ____________, so it is with faith. If one’s faith doesn’t motivate good works, having good works following after it, then it is a __________ faith, being by itself (___________ no __________).

3. True faith in Christ ________________ righteous living. The fruit of true faith is ___________ obedience. And, active obedience ___________ be separated from faith.

D. Do you believe God is one? What good does it do to believe Duet. 6:4, that God is one, if we are not going to obey what Duet. 6:5 commands? Deut 6:5, "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your ___________ and with all your soul and with all your ____________.” So what if one believes a truth about God but does not love God? The demons are just like that. They know God is one, but they don’t _________ and _________ Him.

1. Belief (faith) must effect the way we ____________.

III. The question James asks in verse 20 is, “In recognition that your faith has been useless, are you willing to ____________ of your sin and __________ to God.”

Concluding thoughts:

1. What about the faith you possess? Has it _____________ your life? Does it ___________ that you __________ the One True God? Has it effected the way you talk, ____________, and act? Has it caused you to minister to the needs of others in real and __________ ways?

2. What use is a faith that does not ___________ a hold of a man and bring him to his senses awakening him to his sinfulness and move him to ____________, turning from his wicked ways? A faith that does not do that is not from God! That faith that is from God points a man to God and ________________.

3. Beloved, consider the life you live. Do you see the effects of true faith in your life? Is your faith ____________ through ___________ _________.? There you will find the answer as to whether or not you possess a useless faith or the true faith.

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