

“Perfecting Faith”

Intro: All faith is not _____.

A. There is a non-productive faith that _____ to produce good works. That is a _____ non-saving faith.

B. Faith is known by its _____. Just as a good tree produces good fruit and is known by that fruit, so does good faith produce good works and is known to be _____ faith.

1. While good works do not produce saving faith, saving faith does in fact and without exception produce good works (_____ to _____)!

James 2:21-26

I. Abraham was justified by _____!

A. This seems to _____ what Paul wrote in verses like Eph. 2:8-9, Romans 3:28, and Galatians 2:16.

1. When we take in Paul writings along with what James wrote, not as opposing each other but as completing the picture, we will see that these truths do not contradict each other but stand in _____ expanding our view of the truth, making it _____! Paul has in mind the _____ of salvation and James has in mind that which follows as a result of salvation.

B. The scriptures employ the word "justification" in _____.

1. Justification means to be _____ right; acquitted of wrong-doing. This is how the word is used in Gal 2:16, "nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified (declared right) by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, ..."

2. The second use of the word justification refers to the _____ of righteousness, or vindication. The same word that is translated "justified" here is translated as "vindicated" or "proof" in other places and translations.

a. The use of the term "justified" here in James means that Abraham was "proven" to have faith in God by what he did - by what followed his salvation. His faith was _____ to be saving by his _____.

b. If we have come to the cross, God declaring us righteous, then we will _____ of righteousness. And, our works will be the _____ of our true faith in God that He has declared us justified.

c. Abrahams _____ was the _____ (justification) of his saving faith.

II. As a result of Abraham's obedience, His faith was _____.

A. The word "perfected" carries the idea of being made complete, or reaching the intended _____.

1. The goal of saving faith is to bring about _____! Perfected faith is saving faith that has _____ its goal - works of righteousness! When Abraham's faith motivated him to obey the Lord, working works of righteousness, his faith reached its intended _____!

B. Faith and works are not co-equals, but faith is to _____ our works. When works are influenced by faith, then faith is _____ having reached the goal.

III. "Abraham was called the _____ of God." (2 Chronicles 20:7)

A. John 15:14-16, "You are My friends, _____ what I command you. 15 "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you _____, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, ..."

IV. "Rahab the harlot was also _____ by _____."

A. Rahab, a woman, the gentile harlot of Jericho in Joshua 2 _____ her _____ in God when she told the spies that the "Lord their God was the God of heaven and earth!" Not only did she voice her faith, but her faith her to _____ accordingly.

1. Not only was she spared by Joshua's armies, but she married a Jew and by the _____ of _____ came into the lineage of being the mother of Boaz the kinsman redeemer of Ruth!

a. This saving faith that reveals itself through good works even the _____ of _____!

V. Faith that _____ to produce good works as it did in Abraham and Rahab is _____.

A. Though a man may _____ to have faith, that faith is dead and useless unless there are _____ following after it.

B. True faith will not stand alone for works, being the goal of true faith, will follow. And faith with works of righteousness following is _____!

Closing thoughts.

1. This is the question for the church today! Can you recognize that _____ Christ is _____? Do our works justify us? Do they _____ us to be Christians?

2. Is faith _____ in you? If we say we are Christians, then we must live Christ-like lives! If we say we believe in Christ, then we must behave as Christ! This is the end of perfected faith which, beloved, is _____!

Heritage Christian Fellowship
11104 Menaul NE., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
505.323.0557
maxwell_timothy@hotmail.com