

JAMES 2

RICH MEN SOUTH OF RICHMOND

James 2:1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord of glory, with partiality. IE, FAVORITISM G4381*

2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," **NLT - ON THE FLOOR!** 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become **judges with evil thoughts?** *IE, like a crooked judge. Can you imagine a judicial system that treats people of different political preference differently? NEVER!*

- A few months ago, just as we were closing our Wednesday night service, a homeless looking guy walked in and in a way-too-loud voice said, "Are you closing? I just got here..."
 - Before I could even get to him, one of our Ushers engaged him in conversation and quieted him with kindness... THAT was the right thing to do. **Thanks Perry!**
- Last winter, on a Friday night, the High School kids rushed into the office to tell me that a "Creepy homeless guy" was standing at our door.
 - Before I could get to **him**, our Worship Leader was sitting with him outside and chatting with him. After some prayers, The guy walked into the night with the rest of our pizza wearing a really nice goose down jacket with brand new leather gloves that had only been worn once! **And as I remember**, a premium cigar! **Thanks Bobby!**
- CCSV, we worship next door to a homeless community that needs prayer and ministry, and an occasional pizza. They live under the overpass right outside of our Sanctuary doors. Have a look as you leave today...
 - **BEWARE! They ARE dangerous drug dealers...** But they need JESUS!

THE POINT – WHEN someone walks into any church we should see them as valuable as everyone else. They are a sinner who needs to be saved. Whether they arrive in a Porsche or on a Schwinn, they are both as precious IN GOD'S EYES as the other. They might be...

PENILESS & PREFERRED

5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this

world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

- Smith – “It takes more faith to be faithful when you are poor than when you are rich!”
 - You see this firsthand on Mission's trips, don't you?
- You meet people who are rich in faith who live on dirt floors, who are SO in love with Jesus that it changes your heart forever! **SO, BEWARE...**

6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? 7 Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? *IE, Christians*

- Be careful, Beloved, about filing lawsuits... Especially against one another... It might not go well with you when you stand before the Lord.
 - Did you know, btw, that there is an American Indian tribe that has over ½ of their college kids in Law School?
- **Speaking of Law...**

ROYAL LAW

8 If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, "**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF**," you do well;

- We WANT to do well, don't we CCSV? Here is how!
 - BTW, This REALLY is a Royal Law... It was given by Moses in **Leviticus 19:18:**
- “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the LORD.”

BUT...

9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. **CEV - If you obey every law except one, you are still guilty of breaking them all.**

THE LAW OF LIBERTY

11 For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.

- IE, Doing good works NOT to **BE** saved...
 - But doing good works because you **ARE** saved.
 - THAT is the Law of Liberty.
- How many of you have a fruit tree in your yard? What kind?
 - HOW do you know it is a fruit tree?
 - Maybe the salesperson at Home Depot lied to you!! **DAN????**
- Real Christians are doers of the Word! They bear fruit! SO... Show the fruit of mercy! V13

13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.
OUCH! Mercy triumphs over judgment.

- **Shall we take a test?**
 - **WHAT did you think about the people living under the overpass outside a few minutes ago? Should we feel mercy for them?**
 - **MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT.**

14 What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

- Shall we answer the question? Lets let Chuck Smith answer it:
 - "YES!, Faith can save him...But... Not if he doesn't have works!" True faith will produce works of righteousness.
 - I know that my neighbor has a plum tree! **HOW do I know?**

FAKE FAITH

15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," (**IE, NO COMMENT**) but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? **NOTHING!**

DEAD FAITH

17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

WORKS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIES FAITH

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." **Show me** your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith **by** my works.

- Meaning: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control... **GALATIANS 5**

BELIEVING IS NOT ENOUGH

19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

- **GUZIK** - The fallacy of faith without works is demonstrated by the **demons**, which have a “dead” faith in God. The demons **believe** in the sense that they acknowledge that God exists. But this kind of faith does nothing for the **demons**, because it isn't real faith, and that is proved by the fact that it doesn't have works along with it.

WISE UP!

20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

FAITH OF ABRAHAM

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS." **GENESIS 15:6**

And he was called the friend of God.

- CCSV, BECAUSE of YOUR faith... What will you be willing to do for the Lord?
 - Be obedient and YOU TOO will be called the friend of God.

PROVEN FAITH – BY WORKS

24 You see then that a man is justified by works, **(Proven)** and not by faith only.

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way?

- Talk about doing something scary for the Lord... Rahab knew that protecting two of God's chosen was a capital offense.
 - If caught, she AND her family would have been executed.
 - BY FAITH, she obeyed the Lord.
 - BY FAITH she AND her family were spared when the walls of Jericho fell.
 - Her works PROVED her faith... AND SO WILL MINE...

LIVING FAITH!

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Many times, over the 26 years that we have lived in our home, Dewey and I have rototilled the backyard, added amendments, scattered the fescue seed, raked it in, watered and waited... AND... Waited... And waited some more...

THEN, there is that morning when we look out and see those first frog-hare thin green sprouts. First a few, then a few more, then the entire yards is fuzzy with them.

We stand back feeling like John Deere and imagine the day when we will run a mower over them.

CCSV, The Lord has implanted His word in us, and He too is waiting for the rise of faith in us. BY FAITH, let's rise to heaven for him, shall we?