



“An Excurses: Dear Children, Show Me, Don’t Tell Me!”

1 John 3:16-18, James 2:14-26

Sunday | March 4th, 2018 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 John 3:16-18
James 2:14-26

(See also 1 Jn. 3:1, 16; John 13:34-35; 2 Tim. 3:16; Rom. 3:28, 4:4-5, 6:1-2; Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 2:16, 21, 3:1-6)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Daniel Doriani]

“Four ways to view the relationship between salvation and works”¹
(Note: “The arrow means “produces” or “results in”)

- (1) Works ➤ Salvation
- (2) Faith + Works ➤ Salvation
- (3) Faith ➤ Salvation
- (4) Faith ➤ Salvation + Works

DISCUSS

1. Read 1 John 3:1, 16 and acquaint yourself with the “prototypical love of God.” If the love of God is meant to serve as a prototype, what then does that assume?

2. Read 1 John 3:17-18. What is the relationship between these two verses and vs. 16? What might this look like in the church?

3. Read James 2:14-26. How is James’ message similar to that of John’s? Compare and discuss.
4. Does the teaching of James contradict the teaching of Paul with regards to the doctrine of “Justification by faith?” Read the passages of Paul identified above (i.e. “see also”) and compare to James 2:14-26. Where are the apparent contradictions? Are they contradictions?
5. What does 2 Tim. 3:16 suggest with regard to apparent contradictions in Scripture? What then is our response?
6. Discuss the actual harmony between the writings of both James and Paul. How do they compliment?
7. Discuss Doriani’s “Four ways to view the relationship between salvation and works” diagram (above). Many would identify James with option #2 and Paul with option #3. However, this is incomplete at best; heretical at worst. Discuss the limits (or errors) of the first three options and the merits of option #4. Do you agree with Doriani?
8. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?
9. Discuss the “Be Undivided” video and pray for the upcoming rally on March 18, 2018.

¹Daniel M. Doriani, *Reformed Expository Commentary: James* (P&R Publishing: Phillipsburg, New Jersey, 2007) p. 95-96.