



Living What We Claim to
Believe
Starting May 9, 2010
9:45 am

New Series: Faith Perseveres

Living What We Claim to Believe

Sunday Mornings 10:45 am

PART 1: Sunday May 9, 2010

Pastor Ted A. Duck

James 1:1-12

Sunday May 9, 2010

**FAITH PERSEVERES
Part 1 James 1:1-12**

Why James?

- To examine the relationship between faith and **WORKS**.
- To explore the impact of our faith on...
 - Life in **THIS WORLD**.

 - Life in **DICKINSON**.

Why Trials and Temptations?

- God is sovereign over our **TRIALS**.
 - We learn to grow in His **LIKENESS**.

 - We learn to trust in His **WISDOM**.

Sunday May 16, 2010

Raising the Bar—Going Beyond

PART 2 Deuteronomy 11:26-11:32

God's Challenges

- His people to be WISE.
 - Approach every decision with the wisdom to understand God has our BEST interests at heart.
 - Every decision you make CHOOSE to do it God's way.
 - Be wise enough to be a LEARNER.

- His people to be WORTHY.
 - God has called us to be HOLY.
 - God has chosen us to REVEAL Himself to the world.

- His people to be WORKERS!
 - God made His children to work HARD.

- His people to be WARRIORS!
 - You are called to make a DIFFERENCE for the kingdom of God.
 - Christian warriors are trained to FIGHT.

- His people to be known for what you DO more than what you DON'T do.

Sunday Morning May 23, 2010

FAITH PERSEVERES
(Part 3) James 1:1-12

Why James?

- To examine the relationship between faith and **WORKS**.
- To explore the impact of our faith on...
 - Life in **THIS WORLD**.
 - Life in **DICKINSON**.

Why Trials and Temptations?

- God is sovereign over our **TRIALS**.
 - We learn to grow in His **LIKENESS**.
 - We learn to trust in His **WISDOM**.
- We are responsible in our **TEMPTATIONS**.
 - The origin of sin...
 - God is perfectly **SINLESS**.
 - We are utterly **SINFUL**.
 - The anatomy of sin...
 - Step One: **DECEPTION**.
 - Step Two: **DESIRE**.
 - Step Three: **DISOBEDIENCE**.
 - Step Four: **DEATH**.
- God is faithful for our **SALVATION**.
 - His goodness is **UNCHANGING**.
 - His goodness is **UNDESERVED**.

- His goodness is **UNENDING**.
 - He has **SAVED US FROM** our sin.
 - He will **SEE US THROUGH** our sorrow.

May 30, 2010

Faith Obeys: Receive the Word (James 1:19-25)

- His goodness is UNENDING.
 - He SAVED US FROM our sin.
 - He will SEE US THRU our sorrow.

Pastoral Encouragement

- Do not merely listen to the Word DO IT.
 - Our church culture today delights in listening but RUNS from doing.
 - Put the Word of God into ACTION.

THE JOURNEY OF OBEDIENCE.....

How do we respond to God's Word?

- Receive the Word HUMBLY.
 - We often approach the Word TALKING instead of LISTENING.

- We often begin to twist God's Word to fit our LIFESTYLES.
- God has written the Word in your HEART.
- We are SAVED by the Word of God taking root in our HEARTS.
- Humbly receive the Word of God for what it says, not for WHAT WE PREFER.

Sunday July 4, 2010

FAITH LOVES: Controlled Speech (James 1:25-26)

The Marks of True and Acceptable Religion...

- Controlled SPEECH that displays a changed heart.
 - The TONGUE is the test of true religion.
- Sacrificial CARE for those in need.
 - They are in NEED.
 - We must not NEGLECT THEM.

Sunday Morning July 11, 2010

FAITH LOVES

Separation from the World

James 1:26-2:13

The Marks of True and Acceptable Religion...

- Controlled SPEECH that displays a changed heart.
 - The TONGUE is the test of true religion.
- Sacrificial CARE for those in need.
 - They are in NEED.
 - We must not NEGLECT THEM.
- Clear SEPARATION from the ways of the world.
 - We are captivated by the GLORY of Christ.
 - We see His SUPREMACY over the wealthy.
 - We remember His SACRIFICE for the needy.
 - We are gripped by the GRACE of Christ.
 - Christ reverses our STATUS in this world.
 - Christ transforms our STANDARDS in this world.

Sunday Morning July 18, 2010

PART TWO

FAITH LOVES: Separation from the World

James 1:26-2:13

The Marks of True and Acceptable Religion...

- **We are devoted to the LAW of Christ.**
 - Favoritism DISRESPECTS man.

 - Favoritism DISHONORS God Himself.

- **We are cognizant of the JUDGMENT of Christ.**
 - Our WORDS will be judged.

 - Our DEEDS (or lack thereof) will be judged.

- **We are a reflection of the MERCY of Christ.**
 - As we have RECEIVED mercy, so we EXTEND mercy.

 - If we do not EXTEND mercy, we demonstrate that we have not RECEIVED mercy.

The Manifestation of True and Acceptable Religion...

Faith always expresses itself through LOVE.

Sunday Morning July 25, 2010

PART THREE

FAITH LOVES: Separation from the World

James 1:26-2:13

The Marks of True and Acceptable Religion...

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The Manifestation of True and Acceptable Religion...

Faith always expresses itself through LOVE.

Sunday Morning August 1, 2010

FAITH ACTS: The Truths (James 2:14-19)

The Truths.

- **FAITH in our hearts is evident in the FRUIT of our lives.**
- **People who claim to be Christians but fail to help poverty-stricken fellow believers are in fact NOT SAVED.**
 - **Acts of mercy are not MEANS to salvation.**
 - **Acts of mercy are necessary EVIDENCE of salvation.**
- **Ultimately, DEED-less faith is USE-less faith.**
 - **Faith is not mere INTELLECTUAL assent.**
 - **Faith is not simply an EMOTIONAL response.**
 - **Faith involves WILLFUL obedience.**

**Sunday Morning
August 15, 2010**

FAITH ACTS: The Truths (Part 2) (James 2:14-19)
The Truths.

The Challenge.....

- FAITH in our hearts is evident in the FRUIT of our lives.
- People who claim to be Christians but fail to help poverty- stricken fellow believers are in fact NOT SAVED.
 - Acts of mercy are not MEANS to salvation.
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- Ultimately, DEED-less faith is USE-less faith.
 - Faith is not mere INTELLECTUAL assent.
 - Faith is not simply an EMOTIONAL response.
 - Faith involves WILLFUL obedience.
- Ultimately, DEED-less faith is USE-less faith.
 - Faith is not mere INTELLECTUAL assent.
 - Faith is not simply an EMOTIONAL response.
 - Faith involves WILLFUL obedience.
- EXAMINE yourself. Prove it, Test it, Check it out.
 - What CHANGES can I point to in my life?
 - Is my LIFESTYLE any different at all from unbelievers?
 - Was there a time when I HONESTLY confessed I was a sinner and trusted Christ alone for my salvation?
 - Have I been BAPTIZED?
- SETTLE IT in your mind and by your actions.

Sunday Morning September 12, 2010

FAITH SACRIFICES: Works and Justification (James 2:20-24)

Two Pictures of Faith...

- **DEAD faith...**
 - Which does **NOT** save.

- **LIVING faith...**
 - Which **DOES** save.

Two Pictures of Righteousness...

- **POSITIONAL Righteousness...**
 - How we **STAND** before God.

- **PRACTICAL Righteousness...**
 - How we **LIVE** before God.

Two Pictures of Works...

- **Works fueled by the FLESH...**
 - Which do not honor God.

- **Works that are the fruit of FAITH...**
 - Which bring great glory to God.
 - How do they work?
 - Faith **CREATES** works.
 - Works **COMPLETE** faith.

Two Pictures of Justification...

- **INITIAL Justification...**
 - The inception of the Christian's life.
 - The danger Paul wants us to avoid:
Thinking that works are a necessary **BASIS OR MEANS** of our salvation.

- **FINAL Justification...**
 - The confirmation of the Christian's life.
 - The danger James wants us to avoid:
Thinking that works are not necessary as **EVIDENCE** of our salvation.

SUNDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 19, 2010

FAITH SACRIFICES: Justification and Eternal Truths (Ja 2:20-24)

Justification.

- **INITIAL** Justification...
 - The inception of the Christian's life.
 - The danger Paul wants us to avoid:
Thinking that works are a necessary **BASIS OR MEANS** of our salvation.

- **FINAL** Justification...
 - The confirmation of the Christian's life.

 - The danger James wants us to avoid:
Thinking that works are not necessary as **EVIDENCE** of our salvation.

Two Truths to Remember.... . .

- Salvation is by **FAITH**.
 - By initial faith in Christ, we are made right before God the FATHER.
 - Christ is the **BASIS** of our salvation.
 - Faith is the **MEANS** of our salvation.

 - This gives us radical **CONFIDENCE**.

- Faith **WORKS**.
 - By continual faith in Christ, we walk with God as **FRIEND**.

 - This results in radical **OBEDIENCE**.
 - We trust God **WHOLEHEARTEDLY**.
 - We follow God **SACRIFICIALLY**.

SUNDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

FAITH RISKS (James 2:25-26; Joshua 2.)

Radical Rahab.... . .

- She was a recipient of SCANDALOUS grace.
- She feared and revered the SOVEREIGN God.
- She risked it all for the SPREAD of His glory.

Summation of Justification.... . . .

- Three realities...

4 Christ is the **BASIS** of our justification.

4 Faith is the MEANS of our justification.

4 Works are the EVIDENCE of our justification.

SUNDAY MORNING OCTOBER 3, 2010

Faith Speaks: The Awesome Power of Speech. (James 3:1-12)

Those who speak. . . .

- GOD speaks.
- SATAN speaks.
- PEOPLE speak

Our tongues.....

- Have great potential for GOOD.
 - The ability to rule the tongue is evidence of Christian MATURITY.
 - The use of the tongue can SHAPE entire lives.
- Have great potential for HARM.
 - We inject POISON with our tongues when we curse another person.
- Have great need for gospel CHANGE.
 - You cannot separate who you ARE from what you SAY.
 - The connection between our words and our hearts:
 - Your words FLOW from your heart.
 - Your words are CONSISTENT with your heart.

SUNDAY MORNING OCTOBER 10, 2010

FAITH SUBMITS: Wisdom

James 3:13-4:12

Two Pictures of Wisdom...

- Worldly wisdom...
 - Comes from HELL.
 - Motivated by SELF-CENTERED ambition.
 - Results in DISORDER and EVIL.

- Godly wisdom...
 - Comes from HEAVEN.
 - Motivated by GOD-CENTERED humility.
 - Results in PEACE and RIGHTEOUSNESS.

OCTOBER 24, 2010

FAITH SUBMITS: Friends with the World or God? (Ja 3:13-4:12)

Two Pictures of Wisdom...

- **Worldly wisdom...**
 - Comes from **HELL**.
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- **Godly wisdom...**
 - Comes from **HEAVEN**.
 - Motivated by **GOD-CENTERED** humility.
 - Results in **PEACE** and **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

Two Pictures of Friendship...

- **Friendship with the world...**
 - Comes from the **SINFUL** desires of the flesh.
 - Motivated by a longing for **EARTHLY** pleasure.
 - Results in spiritual **ADULTERY** against God.

- **Friendship with God...**
 - Comes from the **GRACIOUS** desire of God.
 - Motivated by a longing for **ETERNAL** satisfaction.
 - Results in submission to the **AUTHORITY** of God.

OCTOBER 31, 2010

FAITH SUBMITS: Friends with the World or God? (Ja 3:13-4:12)

Two Pictures of Wisdom...

- Worldly wisdom...
 - Comes from **HELL**.
 - Motivated by **SELF-CENTERED** ambition.
 - Results in **DISORDER and EVIL**.
- Godly wisdom...
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Two Pictures of Friendship...

- Friendship with the world...
 - Comes from the **SINFUL** desires of the flesh.
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 - Results in spiritual **ADULTERY** against God.
- Friendship with God...
 - Comes from the **GRACIOUS** desire of God.
 - Motivated by a longing for **ETERNAL** satisfaction.
 - Results in submission to the **AUTHORITY** of God.
 - **RESIST** the devil forcefully.
 - **SEEK** God passionately.
 - Pursue **PURITY** holistically.
 - Treat sin **SERIOUSLY**.
 - Trust God **COMPLETELY**.

Two Pictures of Speech...

- Worldly speech...
 - **DISCOURAGES** one another.
 - **DISHONORS** God.
- Godly speech...
 - **ENCOURAGES** one another.
 - **EXALTS** God.

One Prayer in Faith...

O God, for the glory of Christ amidst urgent spiritual and physical need in the world, we submit our **MINDS** our **HEARTS** our **VOICES** and our **LIVES** to You.

Sunday November 7, 2010

FAITH PERSEVERES: Being Humble and Obedient to God. (Ja 4:13-:17)

Faith that Perseveres...

- Is humble before the **SOVEREIGNTY** of God.
 - We can become so consumed with the **MATERIAL** realm...
 - That we become blind to **SPIRITUAL** realities.
 - God is sovereign over our life and our **DEATH**...
 - And over our activities and our **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**.

- Is obedient to the **WILL** of God.
 - Sins of commission: **DOING** what God has said not to do.
 - Sins of omission: **DISREGARDING** what God has said to do.

Sunday NOVEMBER 14, 2010

FAITH LASTS: Confidence in God's Justice. (James 5:1-6)

Faith that lasts.

- Is **CONFIDENT** in the justice of God.
 - He is coming to **JUDGE** the sinful.
 - For **HORDING** wealth...
 - Their treasures on earth would bring about their torment in eternity.
 - For **CHEATING** workers...
 - Their possessions were accumulating while people were dying.
 - For living in **SELF-INDULGENCE**...
 - They were overfed and unconcerned.
 - For **CONDEMNING** men...
 - Their oppression of others would lead to their own damnation.
 - He is coming to **DELIVER** the faithful.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2010

FAITH LASTS: Patient in Suffering. (James 5:7-11)

- Is PATIENT in suffering.
 - Like a farmer...WAITING for the harvest.
 - Trusting in God with what you CANNOT control.
 - Honoring God with what you CAN control.
 - Like a prophet...SPEAKING the truth.
 - Like Jacob...SEEKING God's blessing.
 - God must DISABLE us.
 - God must change our IDENTITY.
 - God's FACE shines upon us.