

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

WHAT DOTHTH IT PROFIT?

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART TWENTY EIGHT OF SIXTY FOUR*

One consideration of most people about everything is, "What will it give me?" The interest is for a return, increase, or advantage. James teaches that a proper faith gives a return while a dead faith gives no profit. "What doth it profit, my brethren, if a man say he hath faith, but have not works? Can that faith save him?" (James 2: 14). What profit or advantage is your faith if it does not cause you to function (James 2:16)?

Earlier James exhorted his readers to be doers of the word (James 1:22). His general theme in James 2:14-16 is that a faith unaccompanied by works is worthless. If you have faith in Jesus Christ is it a living faith? "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith working through love" (Galatians 5:6). Can a faith that is not accompanied by godly conduct and faithful service save anyone at the judgment?

Many people claim to believe in Jesus Christ, but they never attend to worship Him. They never break bread in remembrance of Him. They never give to share His message with others. "What doth it profit.. Can that faith save...?"

There are others who claim faith in Jesus, but they do not obey His command to "repent and be baptized for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). "What doth it profit...Can that faith save...?"

How many of us believe in Jesus Christ, and have been baptized into Him and even attend faithfully, yet still are "anxious for the morrow"? Our lives are filled with doubts and fears - but we say we believe in Jesus. "What doth it profit...Can that faith save...?"

Are these not examples of a dead faith? Inwardly there is no trust; outwardly there is no obedience. A living faith always shows itself in deeds of faith while a faith without works is dead (James 2:26).

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