

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for April 10-11, 1999

Faith and Works"

Dale Whitehead

James 2:14-26

Dead faith (James 2:14-20)

Empty confession (James 2:14)

False compassion (James 2:15-17)

James 2:15-17 illustrates the point he made in James 2:14.

When James refers to "without clothes," this does not necessarily mean naked. The term was used of people wearing only an undergarment in 1 Samuel 19:24 and John 21:7 or to people dressed poorly or insufficiently which is the case in Job 22:6; 31:19; Isaiah 58:7; Matthew 25:36.

Just as "without clothes" does not necessarily mean naked, neither does the expression "in need of daily food" mean starvation. Rather it means Insufficient nourishment for normal, healthy living.

The expression "go in peace" was a warm and kindly expression of farewell among the Jews. We see this in 1 Samuel 1:17; 20:42; 2 Samuel 15:9; Mark 5:34 and Acts 16:36. The expression communicates that everything will be okay as we put our trust in the Lord.

The phrase "And yet you do not give them..." indicates that the resources were available to help but were not offered.

The rhetorical question "what use is that?" implies the outrageous comment "go in peace, be warmed and filled" is of no use at all and is totally worthless. Professed compassion without kindness and care is phony.

Attempting to balance our responsibilities to supply for the truly needy with our responsibility not to supply for the truly irresponsible can be tricky (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

If you become aware of someone who is in need, and you view them as someone who is willing to take personal responsibility for improving their life situation, then you need to help them.

If you become aware of a person who represents themselves to you as needy but you do not know that as a fact, and you also do not know them well enough to know if they are willing to take personal responsibility for improving their life situation, then you need to test them.

If you become aware of a person who represents themselves as needy but you believe that they have purposed to sustain themselves on the handouts of others without taking personal responsibility for meeting their own personal needs you have no personal responsibility to supply for them.

Shallow conviction (James 2:18-20).