

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for April 17-18, 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)

Shallow conviction (James 2:18-20)

Shallow conviction is present when a person accepts certain facts about God and His Word as true without submitting to either.

Who is James referring to when he says, "Someone may well say..."? I believe that the best interpretation is that the "someone" is an ally of James. He is a person who agrees with James.

Though the Greek word "ALLA" is most commonly translated "but" it can also be translated "indeed" or "yea". This is the way it is translated in the King James Version.

James's point when he says "You believe that God is one, You do well; the demons also believe and shudder" is that belief in the truth of Deuteronomy 6:4 without obedience to Deuteronomy 6:5 is a worthless kind of belief, like that possessed by "demons."

The word "shudder" (PHRISSO) means to bristle and tremble and was commonly used of the trembling associated with great fear.

Demons at least have the sense to "shudder" at God's truth in a state of fear, for they know that eternal torment awaits them in hell (Matthew 8:29-31; Mark 5:7; Luke 4:41; Acts 19:15).

"Foolish" has the idea of "empty" or "defective" and identifies anyone who opposes the truth, that true saving faith which produces works of righteousness.

"Useless" (ARGOS) carries the idea of fruitlessness, lack of productivity. A fruitless tree is certain proof that it does not belong to God and is unacceptable to God because it does not have His divine life within it.