



Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26

*Dead
Faith*

James 2:14-26

Introduction



Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



Introduction

We are saved by grace alone,
through faith alone, in Christ alone

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



Introduction

We are saved by grace alone,
through faith alone, in Christ alone

The Bible is 100% accurate and there is
not a single contradiction contained in it

Dead
Faith

Romans 3:23-28



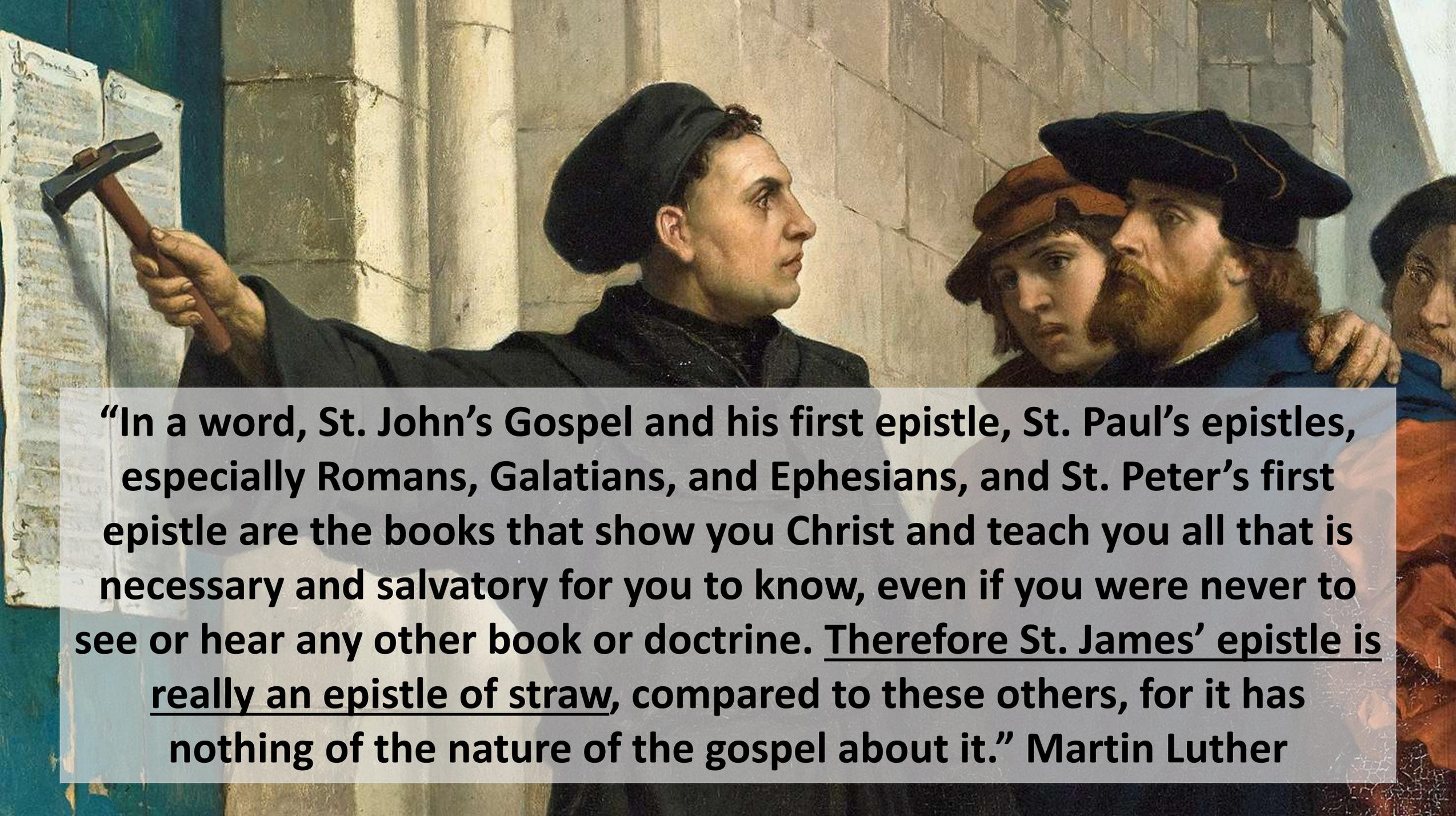
“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



“But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” —and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”



“In a word, St. John’s Gospel and his first epistle, St. Paul’s epistles, especially Romans, Galatians, and Ephesians, and St. Peter’s first epistle are the books that show you Christ and teach you all that is necessary and salvatory for you to know, even if you were never to see or hear any other book or doctrine. Therefore St. James’ epistle is really an epistle of straw, compared to these others, for it has nothing of the nature of the gospel about it.” Martin Luther

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



1. The Problem (v. 14-17)

Dead
Faith

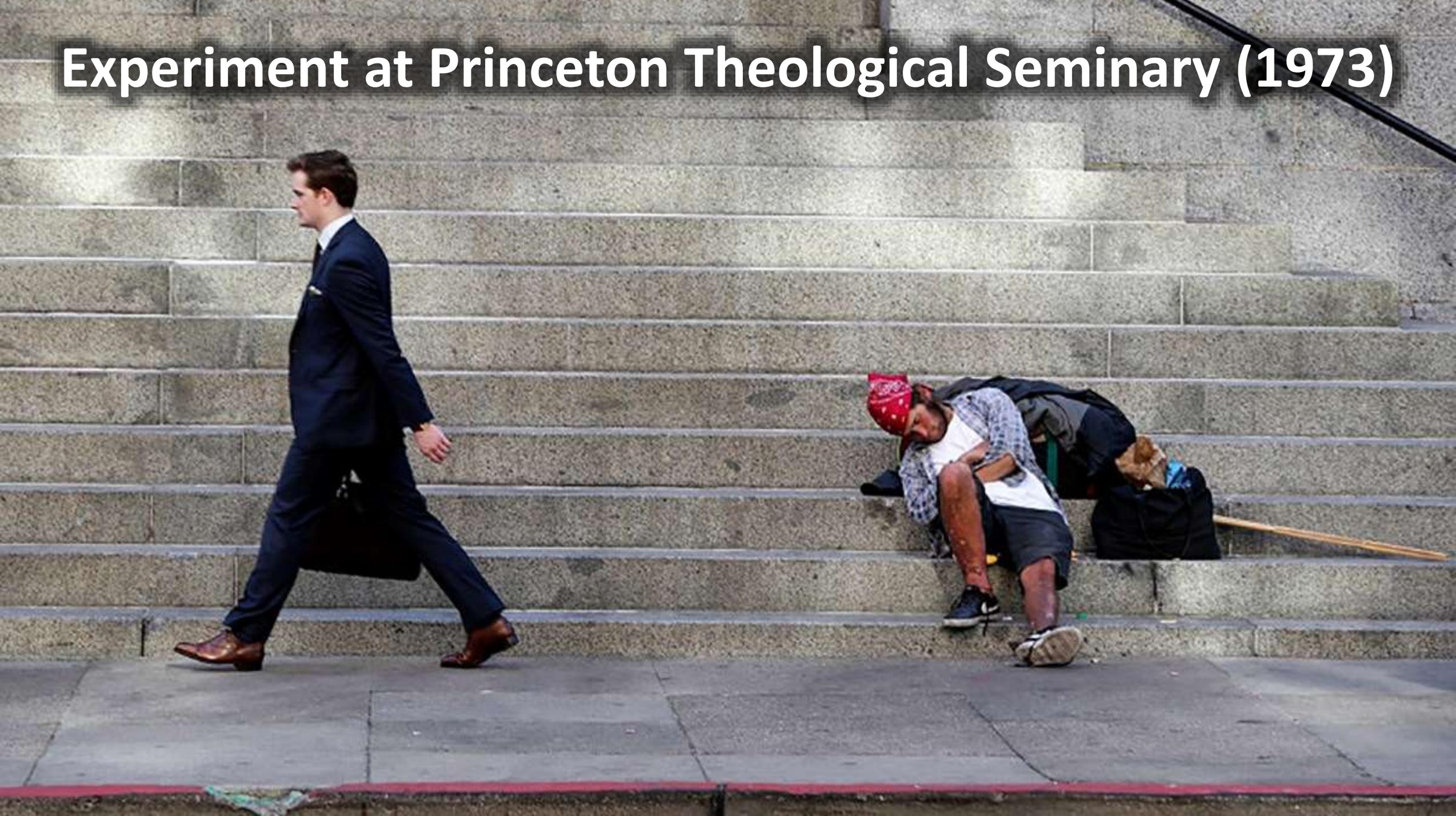
James 2:14-26



1. The Problem (v. 14-17)

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Experiment at Princeton Theological Seminary (1973)



Experiment at Princeton Theological Seminary (1973)

Only 10% of students stopped to help who thought that they were late

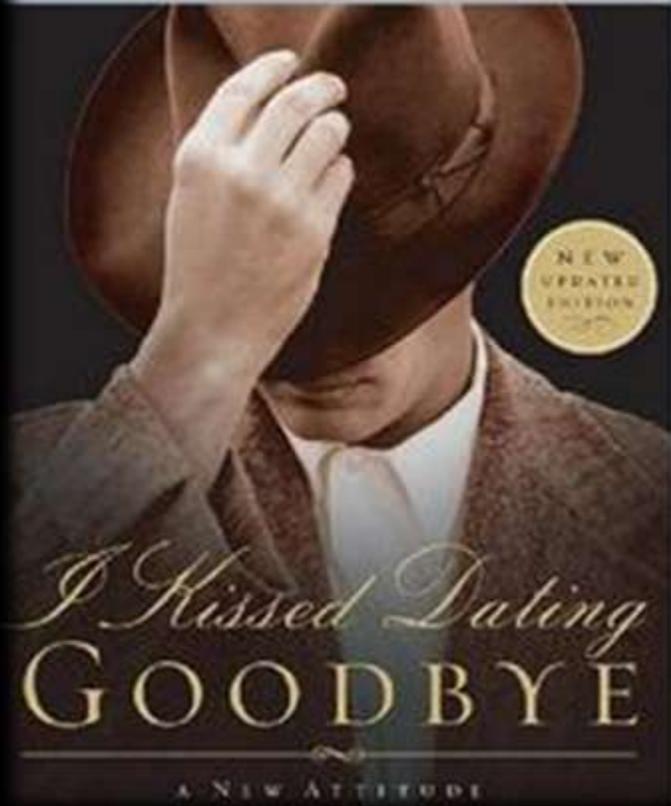


Experiment at Princeton Theological Seminary (1973)

Only 10% of students stopped to help who thought that they were late

66% stopped to help who thought that they were on time





“By all the measurements that I have for defining a Christian,
I am not a Christian.” Josh Harris

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



1. The Problem (v. 14-17)

What do we do when our
words don't match our works?

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



1. The Problem (v. 14-17)

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”



“Them’s the breaks”

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



1. The Problem (v. 14-17)

“To know, but not to do,
is really not to know.”

Covey

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



II. The Proof (v. 18-20)

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



II. The Proof (v. 18-20)

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



II. The Proof (v. 18-20)

Does your walk match your talk?

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



II. The Proof (v. 18-20)

Does your walk match your talk?

I'll listen to your words, but I'll watch your feet

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



II. The Proof (v. 18-20)

It is impossible for someone to show
anyone their faith without their works

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



II. The Proof (v. 18-20)

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



II. The Proof (v. 18-20)

It is one thing to know the truth

It is another thing to love the truth

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



II. The Proof (v. 18-20)

James 2:20

Do you want to be shown, you foolish person,
that faith apart from works is useless?

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



II. The Proof (v. 18-20)

James 2:20

Do you want to be shown, you foolish person,
that faith apart from works is useless?

The ESV translates this Greek word as useless

But other versions translate this word as dead



Dead Faith

Case No.	Height	Weight	Date of Death

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

“Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness’—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

“Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness’—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

James 2:23

And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness'— and he was called a friend of God.

This word translated “fulfilled” here means
“to fill fuller with meaning”

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

James 2:24

“You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”

Verse 24 is the verse over which
all the ink has been spilled over the years

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

Romans 3:28

“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”

James 2:24

“You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”



A central graphic with a glowing cross against a sunset sky. The background is a collage of religious images: a man in a suit and a man in a white shirt in the top left; a man in a white shirt praying in the top right; a Hindu deity in the bottom left; and a crowd of people in the bottom right.

THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST

We are saved by grace alone
Through faith alone
In Christ alone

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

Paul is arguing for the priority of faith

James is arguing for the proof of faith

*Dead
Faith*

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

Romans 4

James 2



*Dead
Faith*

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

Romans 4

James 2



Genesis 15 and Genesis 22 are thirty years apart!

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

The faith that God alone could see in
Genesis 15 was filled fuller with meaning,
and put on display for us all to see in Genesis 22

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

When Paul uses the word “justified” he means
being declared righteous before God

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



III. The Patriarch (v. 21-24)

When Paul uses the word “justified” he means
being declared righteous before God

When James uses the word “justified” he means
being vindicated before others

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



IV. The Prostitute (v. 25-26)



Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



IV. The Prostitute (v. 25-26)

Rahab says she has faith in the one true God of Israel,
and this is confirmed by what she does

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



IV. The Prostitute (v. 25-26)



She actualized the proof of her faith by her works

*Dead
Faith*

James 2:14-26



IV. The Prostitute (v. 25-26)



Rahab is included in the Hall of Fame of Faith in Hebrew 11

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



Conclusion:

“It is faith alone that saves,
but faith that saves can never be alone.”

John Calvin

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



Conclusion:

“It is faith alone that saves,
but faith that saves can never be alone.”

John Calvin

A faith that does not change
your life is not saving faith

Dead
Faith

Ephesians 2:8-10



“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



Conclusion:

Good works are not the cause of salvation,
but rather are the result of salvation

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



Conclusion:

“Knowledge of God can no more connect a man to God than the sight of the sun can carry a man to space.”

John Calvin



David's Community Bible Church Recreational Outreach Center

*Dead
Faith*

James 2:14-26



Conclusion:

How are you doing
in your own personal life?

Dead
Faith

James 2:14-26



Conclusion:

Do you have a living faith,
or do you have a dead faith?



*Dead
Faith*

James 2:14-26