

# James 2:8-13

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Jim Theimer

# Where are we in the book

- The book: Exhortations to wise living
- This section: The problem of favoritism
- Last week: Someone might think (at least implicitly) that this one sin doesn't count
- Read the passage for this week
- Next week's plan is to finish the chapter

# This passage

- Continues an exhortation about how we deal with the poor
- How the audience is confronted
  - Last week: exhorted by the law
  - This week: They thought they had faith not works

# What screams at me

- The assumption is that James is a wisdom-like book that is built on the assumption of the Good News about Jesus Christ
- This passage only makes sense if James is responding to abuses of that Good News
- Paul explains Good News so we turn there
- **Comment on contextualization**
  - James seems like a part of a conversation

# Paul

- The apparent contradiction Rom 3:19-21
  - How do Paul and James talk about faith
- How Paul deals with it Rom 6:1, 6:16
- There have to be works without trusting in you works

# Hebrews A picture of good faith

- Hebrews 11 (11:1-7 esp 1, 6)
- How faith is described
- Examples of living by faith
  - They did things by faith

# Meditations on living by faith

- How do you live when you really believe in something?
  - Walking on a floor analogy
- Application later

# Back to James 2:14-17

- V. 14
  - Not saying that one is saved by works
  - Saying what sort of faith saves
- V. 15,16 specific application
  - What is the point
  - When do we live this way? When do people do it to us?
- V 17 a dead faith is by itself



# Meditations of V 16

- Have you ever said anything like this?
  - I have
  - From my point of view, I have had people do it to me
  - How is this not living by faith
    - From last week, we aren't living like people who know God's grace
    - We are not trusting God to provide our needs
    - Could we be seeking our own glory in things and not seeing God's glory as sufficient
  - A great memorarble exhortation

# Application to other sins

- How are other sins not living by faith?
  - Envy not trusting in God's wisdom to order things correctly
  - Sinful anger not trusting God to put things right
  - ....
- If we are hoping in God, or seeing him as the one who rewards us (Heb 11) how does this confront these sins?

## v. 18, 19

- Where does the question in v. 18 come from?
- What is the answer of v. 19?
  - If mere assent was enough, the daemons are OK
- So what is wrong with the daemons' faith?
  - They know God exists
  - They must not be hoping in him or seeing him as a rewarder of those who seek him
  - Their faith does not produce works
    - There is no "By faith daemons....."
- A great memorable illustration

# Other thoughts

- How are we living differently from the world around us because we walk by faith?
- How do we react to events differently?
- Math 7:15-20
  - The works show that the teacher is a good one
- Math 12:34,36

# Next time

- James 2: 20-26