What the Accounting Is For

Faith That Works | Church of Christ, Clyde, NC

Words to Know

- **Justified**: Declared right with God. Paul shows Abraham's faith counted as righteousness when he believed (Genesis 15). James shows the same faith "completed by his works" on the mountain (Genesis 22). (Romans 4:2–3; James 2:22–24)
- **Buried and Raised**: Paul's picture of baptism. We're buried with Christ into His death and raised with Him "through faith in the powerful working of God." (Romans 6:3–4; Colossians 2:12)

Where the Bible Takes Us

- Saved by grace through faith, not a result of works, and created in Christ for good works. (Ephesians 2:8–10)
- Faith without works is dead. The faith that saves believes, and so it obeys. (James 2:14–17, 24; Galatians 5:6)
- Paul and James point to the same Abraham: faith born in Genesis 15, faith tested and found alive in Genesis 22. (Romans 4:2–3; James 2:22)
- Jesus joined believing and being baptized, and the apostles preached baptism for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 16:15–16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16)
- Baptism is God's working, not ours: buried with Christ and raised by His power, by His mercy. (Romans 6:3–4; Colossians 2:12; Titus 3:5)
- Baptism puts us into Christ, the foundation. The building starts when we come up to walk in newness of life. (Galatians 3:26–27)
- The water doesn't save. God does, "through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." (2 Kings 5:14; 1 Peter 3:21)

Every Passage in This Lesson

1 Corinthians 3:15
James 2:15–16
Romans 4:3
Galatians 5:6
Mark 16:15–16
Acts 22:16
Titus 3:5
2 Kings 5:14
Luke 23:43
Mark 2:10
Romans 6:4
Ephesians 2:8–10
James 2:17
Romans 4:2
James 1:27
Acts 2:37
Romans 6:3–4
Galatians 3:26–27
1 Peter 3:21
Matthew 28:19
Deuteronomy 29:29
James 2:14
James 2:24
James 2:22
James 2:1
Acts 2:38
Colossians 2:12
2 Kings 5:12
2 Kings 5:13
Romans 6:3
1 Corinthians 4:5

Talk About It

- If James walked into our congregation this week, where would he look to see whether our faith is alive?
- Why do you think so many sincere believers hear "baptism for the forgiveness of sins" and think "salvation by works"? How would you answer them from Scripture, gently?
- What about the thief on the cross?

This Week

- Do one thing for a hurting member of this congregation beyond "I'm praying for you." Let your faith move a muscle.
- If you've never been baptized into Christ, Ananias's question is still a good one: "why do you wait?" Let's open the Bible together.
- When old guilt comes back about something God already washed away, go back to Romans 6:4.

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27)