

In just these passages Paul lets us know how one is justified by faith that would exclude one from “boasting”, that is, thinking that they had done something so that justification was a *wage* (Romans 4:4), or something earned.

Paul states that the “boasting” is excluded by a “law.” What law? Not the law of works that the Jews had come up with in order to merit salvation. As a sample of this, they had thought they kept the Law of Moses blamelessly by never outwardly committing adultery. But Jesus taught that they were judged by the intentions of the heart (evident in the commandment not to covet) so they were guilty if they only looked at a woman and lusted (Matthew 5:27-28).

So if their law of works actually worked against them, what law was working for them? It was a “Law of faith” that incorporated the sacrifice of Jesus and would impute His righteousness to them through His sacrifice.

Note that in this context these laws are abbreviated “works” and “faith.” In his teachings, the apostle is not pitting “believing” against “working” but he is contrasting these two laws.

Ephesians 2:8-10 -- *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

7. HOW IT MAKES CONTRADICTIONS

We have already noted some passages that talk of a work being a part of one’s salvation. Here are some more that either have to be ignored, thrown out, or distorted by misinterpretation.

Philippians 2:12 – *... just as you have always obeyed, ...work out your salvation with fear and trembling.*

John 3:36 -- *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides in him.*

James 2:17,20 -- *Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being by itself... But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless.*

Titus 2:14 -- *Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people zealous for good deeds.*

FAITH ONLY (DOCTRINE OF DEMONS)

1. WHY IS IT A DOCTRINE OF DEMONS?

It may seem rather excessive to state that the concept of believing in God without having to do any works is a doctrine of the Devil, but consider, if belief were all that is necessary for one’s salvation, then why is not the Devil saved? Satan not only believes in God, he KNOWS there is a God. He is the ultimate example of one who believes in God without doing the works that God calls for. Thus we might logically call it the doctrine he subscribes to. But logic is not the only thing that commends this doctrine to demons. The Bible itself describes it as such.

James 2:19-20 -- *You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?*

Many have decided, wanting to hold to this doctrine, that the book of James does not really belong in the Scriptures, so they throw it out. This then begins a rational that throws out other passages of the New Testament resulting in all sorts of diabolical consequences. We would suggest, therefore, that any doctrine that cannot be reconciled with the Bible’s other teachings, and intimates that God’s commands need to be ignored, is basically Satanic in origin. It would be far wiser to obey God’s commands and throw out any doctrine that contradicts the Word of the Lord.

2. WHY IT NULLIFIES MANY SOUND WORDS

A major detrimental consequence of the doctrine of “Faith Only” is that it suggests that any command of God is to be discounted because it is a “work.” If this is so, then not even faith will survive for the Scriptures call faith a work.

John 6:27-29 -- *“Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal.” They said therefore to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”*

Notice in the above passage Jesus is telling the multitudes that they need “to work” for the food that does not perish, but endures to eternal life. When asked what this is, He explains that this is to *believe* in Him, thus their “believing” is a *work*.