

Week 3

Discussion – 24 February 2002

1. Paul vs. James?

- James specifically quotes Genesis that Abraham was 'justified by faith'
- Abraham's obedience demonstrated his faith
- Abraham was not a 'law keeper'
- We can't do nothing
- Lack of action/obedience raises a question as to whether faith is real

2. Paul calling for works-based salvation (righteous acts = immortality)?

- **Option A** (3½ votes)
 - This is a hypothetical argument
 - 3:20 – No one is righteous, Jew or Gentile
- **Option B (2 votes) (Cranfield option)**
 - This leads into the punchline, 'You don't qualify either'
 - Raises question whether Gentiles can secure eternal life by faith/good life without Christ?
- **Option C (4 votes) (Dunn option)**
 - Good works = faith
- **Option D (7 votes) (Williams option)**
 - The question is whose works will we be judged by?
 - Jesus' sacrifice, work is credited to us
- Difficult verse over which serious Christians have disagreed

3. Come as you are / don't stay as you are in Romans 4-6?

- Chapters 4-5 Come as you are; Chapter 6, Don't stay as you are
- **Come as you are:**
 - 4:9-10 - justified before he deserved it
 - 4:24 – credited to us
 - 5:1 – we have peace/access
- **Don't stay as you are:**
 - 5:3-4 – we will be changed; hope not disappointed
 - 6:1-3 – Don't continue in sin
 - 6:6 – No longer slaves to sin
 - 6:13 – Present yourselves to God
 - 6:10 – Present members as slaves to God – sanctification