

# Work

Is it Paul vs. James?

Paul: “Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works.”  
Rom. 9:32

James: “What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?” James 2:14

Is work bad?

- We refer to the acts of God as “His works”
- Our own works for God can be considered good
- But with the fall of man, work can also mean a burden

In ancient Judaism work was necessary to be righteous. “The way to godliness is casuistically prescribed for the Jew by a multiplicity of regulations for the performance of the law.” (*Dictionary of New Testament Theology*)

Reward and punishment

Matthew 5:17 – “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

Yet Jesus came into conflict with the Pharisees several times?

Matthew 23:5 – “Everything they [the Pharisees] do is done for people to see.”

Does God owe us wages for works we do?

Paul: Righteousness not earned through our own achievements or by heeding the 10 Commandments

However, Paul says we still need to do good:

- Galatians 6:9-10 – “Let us not become weary in doing good... Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people...”
- Romans 2:10 – “...glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good...”

James 2:17 – “...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

Grace and gratitude

Justification and sanctification

Law vs. Spirit