APRIL 15, 2007
JAMES 2:14-26

Romans 3:27-4:5

Groundwork: 2 Timothy 3:16; John 10:35; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

The key to understanding and application is ***context*** and letting the ***Bible*** interpret and explain the Bible.

Romans 3:28; 4:5 – We are justified by faith ***alone***, not by works.

Galatians 5:6 – What counts with God is the kind of faith that by its nature produces ***love***.

James 2:14-16 – Loveless faith is absolutely ***useless***.

James 2:24 – We are justified by faith ***and*** what we do.

For Paul, *justification by works* (which he rejects) means trying to gain right standing with God by the ***merit*** of works.

For James, *justification by works* (which he accepts) means maintaining a right standing with God by faith along with the necessary ***evidence*** of faith, namely, the works of love.

Paul is talking about man's faith in sight of ***God***, James is talking about man's faith in sight of ***men***.

Nutshell: We are justified – made right with God – by ***faith*** and that faith is justified – proved real to men – by our ***works***.

Life in Christ is
1st – a life surrendered by ***faith*** to truth
2nd – a life changed by belief into ***obedience***

You can't have one without the other and you can't have Jesus without ***both***.