wrong, one is liable to be punished unless a just reason can be found for being let off. Such a reason justifies the one found guilty so that the guilty is forgiven and judged as not guilty. For example, a man might not be booked for speeding because he was rushing to hospital with his wife in labor.

We will be let off punishment in hell because Jesus died for us on the cross. God justifies and forgives us for that reason, so long as we have shown faith in the one who died for us. People who don't have faith and who reject Jesus are not justified by his death.

Does James disagree with Paul?

**JAMES:** "A man is justified by works and not by faith only" (James 2:24).

**PAUL:** "A man is justified by faith apart from works" (Rom 3:28).

James is saying that we cannot be saved by FAITH ALONE. Faith must be perfected by works. Paul is saying that we cannot be saved by WORKS ALONE. Works must be perfected by faith. Both statements are true.

We are all "without works" sufficient to justify ourselves. We all fall short of God's glory, so boasting of our own righteousness is excluded (Romans 3:27). However God's law is not excluded, and by faith we obey God's law, just as Abraham did. So Paul and James are in agreement.

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**Justification By Works**

**Lesson 1 in James’s Letter**

*By Ron Graham*

This lesson is the first of five lessons from the letter written by James. In this first lesson, James teaches us how works are associated with justification.

A chain of verses to get us started

**James 1:21** tells us to "Receive the implanted word which is able to save your souls"

**James 1:22** explains exactly what it means to receive God's word: "Be DOERS of the word and not hearers only".

**James 1:22** explains exactly what it means to receive God's word: "Be DOERS of the word and not hearers only".

**James 1:27** mentions some of the things included in being DOERS: "Visit the fatherless and the widows in their troubles and keep oneself unstained by the world".

**James 2:12** All through his letter James emphasizes ACTIONS: "So speak, and so