ACT, as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty".

James 4:17 is very clear about the need for good deeds: "To him who knows to DO good, and does not do it, to him that is sin".

**Introducing the term "works"**

In the scripture chain we just looked at, James tells us about the need for answering God's word with DOING and ACTION. James also uses the word "works" which means exactly the same thing, namely DEEDS by which we OBEY "the implanted word".

James 2:24 is an example: "You see that a man is justified by WORKS and not by faith only".

Jesus once said, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, when you don't DO what I say?" (Lke 6:46). When we try hard to put our faith into PRACTICE, by doing the things that Jesus commands, we are doing "works".

**Good works include NOT doing wrong**

James 1:21 introduces the idea of receiving the implanted word with this instruction: "Putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness"

So we see that NOT DOING WRONG is just as important to "works" as DOING RIGHT.

James's idea of "works" includes NOT DOING things that are sinful or harmful. You may have noticed this fact when we looked at James 1:27...

Good works means DOING RIGHT --"visit the fatherless and the widows".

But good works also means NOT DOING WRONG --"keep oneself unspotted from the world".

James’s main teaching about good works

James 2:14-26 is a part of his letter where James talks in detail about the need for "works". Please read it carefully.

We will now spend some time studying this passage as a series of word-pictures that illustrate the need for "works" together with faith.

The word pictures that James uses

As we were reading James 2:14-26, you may have noticed that James uses a series of thought pictures to illustrate the need for "works" with faith..

Jas 2:15-17 Imagine a cold and hungry person needs help. All you give them is nice words -words without works are useless. In the same way faith is useless without works.

Jas 2:14,18 Imagine two people arguing about faith and works. One claims to have faith alone. The other challenges him, "Show me your faith! You can't! But I can show you my faith by the works that accompany it".

You can pull out a driver's licence to show you drive a car, but there's no document to prove you have faith - except the "document" of a life filled with good works

Jas 2:19-20 Imagine the demons -they believe in God. But all their "faith" makes them DO is shake in their shoes!

Jas 2:21-24 Imagine Abraham offering his son on the altar. Abraham proved his faith by showing he was willing to DO whatever the Lord required of him.

Jas 2:25 Imagine Rahab the harlot helping the men of God. She was not justified by what she was (a prostitute), but by what she DID out of faith.

Jas 2:26 Imagine a dead body, cold and grey and still. It will soon begin to rot. That's because it has no spirit. In the same way, faith, if it has no works, is dead. [It is interesting that in this illustration spirit is parallel to works, not faith.]

What does James mean by 'justified'?

"Justification". is in the same word-family as "justice" and "judgment". If one has done