

Introductory Question

FBC's website says '*Together, connecting Christ, church and community*'. We have many wonderful ministries, each a 'Good Work', that are connecting FBC to the community. List a few, how do they bless our community?

1 The reading on Sunday was from 'The Message'. Read James 2:14-19 from the Message version, then read the same passage from the NIV.

- Were there things in the Message that you liked?
- What didn't you like?

2 How would you describe 'saved by faith, not by works' to a non-christian in less than 90 seconds? Have a go!

3 Read James 2:14-19. The speaker talked about needing to find a balance between being too focussed on good works (to the detriment of keeping close to God) and being too focussed on 'spiritual things' (to the detriment of doing practical things).

- was he right?
- Do you have any examples where there hasn't been a healthy balance between the two? As individuals or within churches.
- Do you have any hints or tips on how to stay balanced?
- Has our church got the balance right?

4 Read Ephesians 2:8-10. A beautiful summary of faith and works.

'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do'.

- what does it mean to be 'God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus'?
- How would you describe 'good works'?
- How could we start to see what the 'good works' God is wanting you and me to do?

5 The speaker said, in his opinion, that the greatest Good Work that we can do is to introduce people to Jesus by, for example, sharing our testimonies and by being able to clearly explain the the Gospel message.

- what do you think?
- Are there specific scriptures that might support this view?

6 End in prayer, (perhaps using Eph 2:8-10) giving hearty thanks that we are indeed saved by faith in Christ Jesus and not by our own efforts.