

**Introduction**

**Why Do We Reject Any Attempt at Fruit-Inspection?**

**Purpose-Statement of John: John 20:30-31.**

*These [signs] are written so that **you** [the intended unbelieving readers] may believe... and so that, by believing, **you** [those same unbelievers] may have life in His Name.*

**Everlasting life is a gift (not a good deal; we could not even afford the tip): John 4:10**

*If you knew **the gift of God** and **who** it is that is saying to you... you would have asked and He would have given you living water.*

**John 5:24: Everlasting life cannot be lost. Believers not going to Great White Throne.**

**Who will still be in the graves at the time of the Great White Throne? Interpret John 5:28-29.**

**Some Key Passages that People Often View as Fruit-Inspection Passages**

**John 15:1-8, esp. v. 2**

Defining the word *you* in context.

INTERPRETIVELY, *you* means \_\_\_\_\_ here.

APPLICATIONALLY, *you* applies to all \_\_\_\_\_ here.

Cuts off or lifts up (15:2)?

What is the fruit of the vine? What (in the ancient world) was always inside the fruit of the vine?

**Matthew 7:16**

What is the referent of the word *them* in 7:16?

You will know them as \_\_\_\_\_ by their fruits?

**Ephesians 2:10**

*artifact*

For we are His ~~workmanship~~, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

The problem with workmanship is that singular and plural forms are identical. Differentiating singular from plural predicate nominatives with a plural subject.

- We<sub>plural subject</sub> are humans<sub>plural predicate nominative</sub>.
  - We<sub>plural subject</sub> are [His created] artifacts<sub>plural predicate nominative</sub>.
  - We<sub>plural subject</sub> are family<sub>singular predicate nominative</sub>.
  - We<sub>plural subject</sub> are [His created] artifact<sub>singular predicate nominative</sub>.
- We [the universal church] are His created artifact.  
The church is His created artifact.

In other words, one for the purposes for which God created the church was so it would accomplish certain things on planet earth that He wanted it to do—e.g., to spread the faith-alone in-Jesus-Christ-alone message to unbelievers. Not a fruit inspection verse.

**Philippians 1:6**

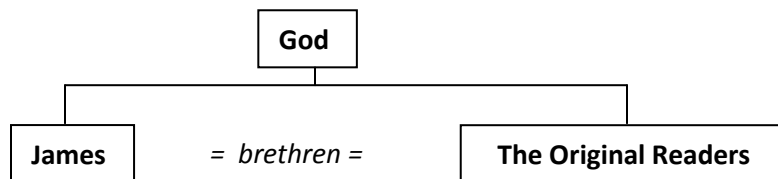
... He who began a good work in you<sub>plural</sub> will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.  
To which good work does Paul refer?

**James 2:14-26: Faith and Works**

To whom did James write?

James 1:1: To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad:

James 1:18: *Of His own will He brought us forth [apokueō: a term for procreation] that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*



Putting James 1:1 and 1:18 together, what can we say about the original readers?

**A Conundrum:**

How (since the readers were believers) do we explain James 1:21?

He does not say, "which can save unbelievers' lives,"

He does not say, "which did save your lives"

He says, "which can save your lives."

(More about this later)

**The Outline of James**

James 1:19-20: So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be:

swift to hear

(1:21-2:26),

slow to speak

(3:1-18),

and slow to anger

(4:1-5:6)

James 1:21 appears in the same section of the book as 2:14-26. Saved (in the book of James) does not refer to an unbeliever receiving everlasting life by believing in Jesus Christ.

Saved, in this book, means to have one's physical life spared (for a time) from physical death.

Consider James 5:19-20 (lines are for filling in blanks; boxes for implications).

Brethren \_\_\_\_\_, if anyone among you \_\_\_\_\_

wanders from the truth,

and one of you \_\_\_\_\_

turns him back,

let him know that he who turns a sinner \_\_\_\_\_

from the error of his way will save \_\_\_\_\_

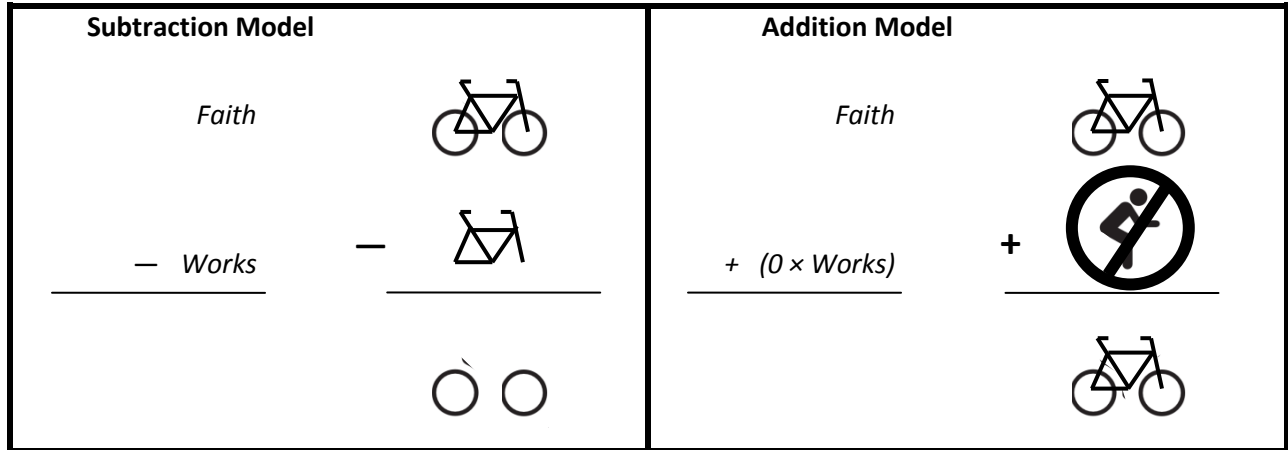
a life from death \_\_\_\_\_ and cover a multitude of sins.

So, from what do these eternally-secure believers need deliverance (in James 1:21)?

**Two Models for Faith Without Works**

The wrong view: Subtraction model: ~~Faith in Christ does not save one who has no works~~  
 People think that faith without works is something less than real faith (bike w/o frame)

The right view: Addition model: Applied faith in God's word delivers us in life  
 Whether or not one has works, faith is still faith (a complete bicycle lacking a rider)



**Another Illustration of the Addition Model: Apples and Oranges**

**CONCLUSION**

Contrary to popular opinion, James 2 is not about fruit inspection. James warns believers that we will reap what we sow. If we believe Gods word and apply its truth to life, we experience Gods deliverance in life. If not, God allows us to reap what we sow in a negative sense. That can have consequences, up to and including premature physical death as God removes His protective hand from us.