

The Significance of a Little Greek Word

James 2:17-26

There is a small Greek word [*kōris*] which means “without, apart from.” It’s fascinating how this little word is used in passages of tremendous doctrinal significance:

- 1) Nothing was created apart from Jesus Christ. “**Without** Him was not anything made that was made” (*John 1:3*).
- 2) Jesus Christ was totally **without** sin. “[Jesus Christ] was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (*Heb. 4:15*).
- 3) Apart from Christ, all men are totally without hope: “at that time ye were **without** Christ...having no hope, and without God in the world” (*Eph. 2:12*).
- 4) Without holiness, no one will see the Lord. “Follow...holiness, **without** which no man shall see the Lord” (*Heb. 12:14*).
- 5) Apart from the shedding of Christ’s blood there is no forgiveness of sins. “**Without** shedding of blood is no remission” (*Heb. 9:22*).
- 6) God uses people to disseminate His gospel. “How shall they hear **without** a preacher?” (*Rom. 10:14*).
- 7) A person is not saved by trying to keep the law or by trying to perform good works. “We conclude that a man is justified by faith **without** the deeds of the law...the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness **without** works” (*Rom. 3:28; 4:6*).
- 8) It is impossible for a person to please God apart from faith. “But **without** faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is” (*Heb. 11:6*).
- 9) It’s impossible to accomplish anything of eternal value apart from abiding in Christ. “He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without** Me ye can do nothing” (*John 15:5*).
- 10) A genuine, living, saving faith will be accompanied by good works. “Faith **without** works is dead...For as the body **without** the spirit is dead, so faith **without** works is dead also” (*James 2:20,26*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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