



STUDIES

from

JAMES

Heavenly Wisdom

James 3:13

Who is a wise man and endured with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

- The wisdom James describes in chapter three is not primarily the intellectual variety.
- James is teaching that wisdom is seen in one's conduct and lifestyle.

1. It is not simply possessing factual knowledge, but properly applying truth to everyday life.

2. The Hebrew clearly understood that true wisdom was not intellectual, but behavioral.

- The Bible teaches there are two basic kinds of wisdom: the wisdom of man and the wisdom of God.

1. Solomon's life illustrates both types of wisdom.

2. Early on he sought wisdom from God.

1 Kings 3:5-12

3. Later, Solomon indulged himself and put himself at the center of everything. Ecclesiastes reveals the uselessness of man's wisdom.

- The foundation and motivation of human wisdom is self.

Test Of Wisdom

James 3:13

- Most people have an elevated and unrealistically high opinion of their wisdom.

1. Their opinion is better than anyone else's.
2. In a day of relativism, such perception is virtually universal.
3. Self-ambition is a common companion of arrogance.

- James admonished his readers to show their wisdom and understanding by their good works.

- He goes further and says believers are to demonstrate it with an attitude of meekness or gentleness.

1. The Greek word for meekness, *prautes*, carries the idea of tenderness and graciousness.
2. The Greek term does not connote weakness but rather power under control.
3. A term used for when a wild horse was broken and made useful
4. This tenderness is to characterize everyone in the kingdom of God.

Motivation For False Wisdom

- False wisdom does not recognize God's sovereignty, God's will, or God's truth.
- Motivation is always determined in the heart. James mentioned two motives behind human wisdom.

1. Bitter envying

- a. *Bitter* has the basic meaning of pointed, sharp, and prickly.
- b. This is the worst sort of jealousy.

James 3:13

Who is a wise man and endured with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

James 3:14

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth

1 Kings 3:9
Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

c. When personal ideas are the measure of everything, whoever threatens the ideas is considered an enemy.

2. Strife

a. The single Greek word, *eritheia*, connotes extreme selfishness.

b. Any sort of work or undertaking that was done for personal gain

c. This word became closely associated with those seeking high political office.

James 3:17-18

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

- During the writing of this book, boasting and self-glorifying were accepted and expected marks of the successful.
- Faithful Christians are not to have such arrogance which displays the absence of divine wisdom.

True Wisdom

- **James 3:17-18**

- James gives a list of characteristics that will identify Godly wisdom:

1. Pure - Same word often used for *Holy*
2. Peaceable - Don't perpetrate conflict, but produce peace with humility
3. Gentle - Submits to mistreatment
4. Easily intreated - Yields without dispute
5. Mercy and good fruits - Evidences their faith and transformed life
6. Without partiality - Not divided or inconsistent
7. Without hypocrisy - One of the sins Jesus condemned the most.