

Heavenly Wisdom

Lesson 707 James #6

TEXT: James 3:13-18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. THE OLD TESTAMENT ENCOURAGES US TO SEEK WISDOM (**Prov. 3:13-18; 4:7-9**).
- B. THE NEW TESTAMENT ALSO EXHORTS US TO WALK IN WISDOM (**Eph. 5:15-17**).
- C. BUT THERE IS MORE THAN ONE KIND OF WISDOM (**James 3:13-18**).
- D. JAMES DISCUSSES AND CONTRASTS EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY WISDOM.

I. A CONTRAST IN THEIR ORIGIN.

- A. EARTHLY WISDOM IS NOT FROM ABOVE (**vs. 15**)
 - 1. It is **EARTHLY**. *epigeios*, upon the earth, earthly, terrestrial (**2 Cor. 5:1**) (*Thayer*).
 - a. A preoccupation with the things of this world (**Phil. 3:19**).
 - b. Reasons from this perspective, taking no thought for eternity (**Luke 12:16-21**).
 - c. But this wisdom is foolishness to God (**1 Cor. 1:18-21; 3:18-19**).
 - 2. It is **SENSUAL**. *psuchikos*, **governed** by the *psuchee* i. e. the sensuous nature with its **subjection to appetite and passion** (*Thayer*).
 - a. Used in **1 Cor. 2:14-15**. Again, a perspective that serves the fleshly appetites.
 - b. A sharp contrast (**Rom. 13:11-14**).
 - c. Who is in control (**Jude 18-19**).
 - d. If it feels right, it must be ... follow your heart (**Jer. 17:9**).
 - 3. It is **DEMONIC**. *daimoniodes*, resembling or proceeding from an evil spirit, demon-like (*Thayer*).
 - a. The Nature of demonic wisdom is to Deceive (**2 Cor. 11:3**).
 - b. Satan's wisdom leads to Sin! (**1 John 3:7-8**).
- B. THE WISDOM FROM ABOVE IS CONTRASTED (**vs. 17**).
 - 1. It comes from GOD (**Jas. 1:17; Jas. 1:5; Prov. 2:6**).
 - 2. It begins with a fear of God (**Prov. 10:9; Psa. 111:10**), and leads to Obedience!

II. A CONTRAST IN THEIR NATURE.

- A. TWO PRONGS OF EARTHLY WISDOM (**vs. 16**)
 - 1. Bitter Jealousy.
 - 2. Faction
 - 3. This wisdom extols as virtues such qualities as:
 - a. Power b. Position c. Privilege d. Prestige
 - 4. What is the source? (**James 4:1; 1 Cor. 3:1-3**). Controlled by earthly passions.
- B. THE WISDOM THAT IS FROM ABOVE (**vs. 17**).
 - 1. It is first **PURE**, true to **God's Will** and **PURE** in its **Motives** (**1 Tim. 1:5**).
 - 2. Then it is **PEACEABLE** (**Rom. 12:18; Matt. 5:9**).
 - 3. **GENTLE**, kind in one's dealings with others (1 Pet. 3:8; Gal. 6:1).
 - 4. **EASY TO BE ENTREATED** - *eupithees*, compliant, approachable. (*A.T. Robertson*) easily obeying, compliant (*Thayer*)
 - a. Approachable (**James 1:19**) "**Swift to hear.**"
 - b. Other versions: reasonable (**NASU**), open to reason (**RSV**), submissive (**NIV**), willing to yield (**NKJV**). **SOMEONE YOU CAN REASON WITH.**
 - 5. **FULL OF MERCY**, Quick to forgive others (**James 2:13**).
 - 6. And **GOOD FRUITS**, Associated with mercy (**Luke 10:37**)

- a. Good deeds the fruit of righteousness (**Phil 1:11**). (**Robertson**)
- b. Wisdom takes one beyond being a HEARER to being a DOER (**Jas. 1:22; 2:24**).
- 7. **WITHOUT VARIANCE**, Partiality,
 - a. **adiakritos**, 1. undistinguished and undistinguishable, 2. without dubiousness, ambiguity, or uncertainty (**Thayer**).
 - b. "Unhesitating," not doubting ... like the man in **James 1:6**. Here only in the New Testament. This wisdom does not put a premium on doubt. (**Robertson**)
- 8. **WITHOUT HYPOCRISY**, **anupokritos**; sincere (**Strong**)
 - a. Deceit is the result of hypocrisy (**1 Pet. 2:1**). **Do we put on a show?**
 - b. No guile with one another (**Rom. 12:9; 1 Pet. 1:22**).

III. **A CONTRAST IN THEIR FRUITS.**

- A. EARTHLY WISDOM (**vs. 16**).
 - 1. Causes **CONFUSION** (**Eph. 4:17-19**). Darkened understanding (**1 Cor. 1:14-15**).
 - 2. And **EVERY VILE DEED**. (Evil Work – **KJV**)
 - a. God's wisdom is revealed in the Gospel (**1 Cor. 1:21-24**).
 - b. When man refuses God's wisdom ... (**Rom. 1:28ff**).
- B. THE WISDOM THAT IS FROM ABOVE (**vs. 18**). **PEACE**, instead of confusion and RIGHTEOUSNESS, instead of every evil thing

CONCLUSION:

- A. WHO IS REALLY WISE? IT WILL SHOW IN HIS LIFE (**James 1:13**).
- B. IF WE FOLLOW THE WORLD, WE CANNOT DENY IT. IT WILL SHOW (**vs. 14**).
- C. THE WISE COURSE IS TO BE HONEST AND REPENT.