

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 3:13-18

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Who Has Wisdom?”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
- deceiving yourselves.

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of The Text vv. 13-18

Summation Sentence

The Christian in James' day was living in a very difficult time. Their world, after coming to Christ, seemed to be falling apart. They had lost their employment, they had lost their positions within the community and they had suffered the loss of their very own families for having come to Jesus because they understood Him to be the savior of the world, Israel's awaited Messiah.

From the world's view, they were a group of extremist who had been stripped of this world's goods and status for an empty cause and had in fact become the outcasts and exiles of the age...

...But God Saw them Altogether Different

Hebrews 11:36-38

Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented-- ³⁸ **of whom the world was not worthy of.** They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and the caves of the earth.

What the Early Believer Suffered

led them to trust in Christ all the more because Jesus was all that they had.
They came to the knowledge that Jesus was all that they needed!!!

“Knowledge” is Specific Information,
and Wisdom is the Practical Application of that Knowledge.

Proverbs 4:7b
therefore get wisdom.

James is Very Concerned for the Public Witness of the Christian

Difficult and trying times seem even more stressful when we cannot see what lies ahead. It's often the "Not Knowing" that causes us so much anxiety. The trying times reveal our spiritual integrity - our type of wisdom!

James 3:13-18

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Who Has Wisdom?

1.) Those Who Have a **Good Conduct**

vv. 13

Who is **wise** and **understanding** among you?
Let him show by **good conduct**
that his works are done in the **meekness** of **wisdom**.

James Asks Another Question, "Who is Wise and Understanding"?

Taking Us Back to...

James 3:1
My brethren, let not many of you become teachers,
knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

James is Contrasting True Wisdom from False Wisdom

Whoever he is... Let him show
by **good conduct**
that his **works** are done in the **meekness** of **wisdom**.

Who Has Wisdom?

1a.) We're All Called to be Wise & Understanding

Who is **wise** and **understanding** among you?

- * Wise grk 4680 sophos (sof-os');
that which is **clear**. Untainted resolve. To have the ability to act upon something with **clarity regarding the issue**
- * Understanding grk 1990 epistemon (ep-ee-stay'-mone);
to be well informed. Having insight to the issues. **having the "know-how"**

Isaiah 33:6

Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times,
and the strength of salvation; the fear of the LORD is His treasure.

Psalms 111:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

Who Has Wisdom?

1b.) We Have a New Life Style of Living

Let him **show by** good conduct

- * Show grk 1166 deiknuo (dike-noo'-o);
to make public. To display or to make well known
- * Conduct grk 391 anastrophe (an-as-trof-ay');
lifestyle. The way one lives. - **to overturn**, or to overthrow. To flip over. To right something that has been flipped over

1 John 3:8

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. -- **TO RIGHT THE WORLD**

We no longer **look** like the WORLD

We no longer **talk** like the WORLD

We're no longer **like** the WORLD

2 Corinthians 6:17a

Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate..."

1 Peter 1:13-16

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Who Has Wisdom?

1c.) Our New Works Prove Our New Lives

That his **works are done** in the **meekness** of **wisdom**.

* Meekness grk 4240 prautes (prah-oo'-tace);
Power under control. to respond with mildness. To not take revenge against another. To exercise a place of humility

A person who is meek
can handle a rebuke / or instruction / or a criticism

We show people God's wisdom when we are led by meekness in how we
treat others

Notice the Public Involvement

#1 - among you / #2 - show / #3 - **works are done**

Who Has Wisdom?

2.) Those Who Recognize the Conflict

vv. 14-16

But if you have **bitter envy** and **self-seeking** in your hearts, Do not **boast** and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

2a.) The Christian is **Aware** of the Conflict

(But if you) have **bitter envy** and **self-seeking** in your hearts, do not boast and **lie** against the truth.

* If grk 1487 ei (i);
since, because, it is true, it is so, forasmuch as, if that

The Bitter Truth is...

The Christian has to war Against the Temptation to be Bitter and Self-Seeking

Galatians 5:16-18 NIV

live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷ For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

* Bitter grk 4089 pikros (pik-ros');
having the idea of piercing); sharp to cut, to lay open

* Envy grk 2205 zelos (dzay'-los);
to desire what another person has. To lust for what someone else owns.
jealousy, zeal.

* Self-seeking grk 2052 eritheia (er-ith-i'-ah);
to faction, to be in pursuit, to spend energy upon self

- What are my energies going toward?
 - Where do I invest my time?
 - What am I really living for today?

1 Timothy 6:6-11

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

* Contentment grk 841 autarkeia (ow-tar'-ki-ah);
having Self-Satisfaction, Contentedness (living in the State of Contentment) - Possessing Sufficiency...

Having the Wisdom of God

in your heart will create satisfaction in life

Having the Wisdom of God

in your mind will create a deep peace of soul

Having the Wisdom of God

will create stability to the emotions and health to the body

Psalms 37:5

#1 - Commit your way to the LORD,

#2 - Trust also in Him,

#3 - and He (Not Me) shall bring it to pass.

Troubles (and not seeing Jesus in them) can overwhelm us

Mark 4:35-40

On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." ³⁶

Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸ But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

Psalms 55:22

Cast your burden upon the LORD, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be **shaken**.

* **shaken** heb 4131 mowt (mote);
to wobble or to waver; to sail off course, or to slip from the path

Attitude determines Altitude

Aviators are always concerned about the Attitude of the Aircraft. Because Attitude directly affects Altitude... and airplanes were designed to fly with a proper Attitude, which maintains a safe Altitude

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The Wisdom of God, puts Jesus right in the Middle of Living

2b.) The Conflict is Against Our Self-life

Do not **boast** and **lie** against the truth

Our Self-Centered Lives affect the lives of everyone else

#1 - do not **boast** against the truth

and

#2 - do not **lie** against the truth

Romans 14:7-8

For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

* Boast grk 2620 katakauchaomai (kat-ak-ow-khah'-om-ahee);
to exult yourself against or in the face of another to rejoice over yourself!

To put down another - to Lift up self
This is not a wise thing to do!

It's when you're impressed with yourself

2 Corinthians 10:12

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

“To Form a Clique”

Everybody hates a clique, until they're invited into it

- * lie grk 5574 pseudomai (psyoo'-dom-ahee);
to speak inaccurately about another. to not give credit where credit is due. to not lift others up

2c.) The Conflict We Face is **Spiritual**

This wisdom does not descend from above,
but is **earthly, sensual, demonic.**

1 Corinthians 1:20a

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age?
NOT ANYONE HERE ON EARTH

Earthly, sensual, demonic

I John 2:16

For all that is in the world
-- the lust of the **flesh**, the lust of the **eyes**, and the pride of **life**
-- is not of the Father but is of the world.

- * earthly, grk 1919 epigeios (ep-ig'-i-os);
the world (physically or morally): the thought and spirit of this terrestrial.
- * sensual, grk 5591 psuchikos (psoo-khee-kos');
root is “psyche (psoo-khay)” - the mind, the soul
the study of the mind is psucheology (physcology)
- * demonic grk 1141 daimoniodes (dahee-mon-ee-o'-dace);
to be demon-like: to be devilish. That being what demons use.

Ephesians 6:12a

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual hosts of wickedness...

It's not of God

#1 it is of the earth #2 it is sensual #3 it is demonic

Intended To Defeat Us

and we fight with it as Christians everyday

It's Well Within God's Eternal Plan

Ephesians 3:10-11

to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

(Verse 20)

For where **envy** and **self-seeking** exist,
confusion and every **evil thing** are there.

- * Confusion grk 181 akatastasia (ak-at-as-tah-see'-ah);
commotions, disorder an unstable character
- * Every (the whole) evil (rotten) thing (work)
worthy experiences. Empty events. A trivial life

Earthly Wisdom

results in envy, self-aggrandizement, confusion and sinful practices
-- a shallow life !!!

1 Timothy 6:9

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

God's Wisdom Will Keep You From Self-Destruction

Who Has Wisdom?

3.) Those Who Have a godly Character

vv. 17-18

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

¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

3a.) This Wisdom is Received **from Above**

But the wisdom that is from above

It Demands a Heaven Dependence!

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, *with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

3b.) This Wisdom's Priority, is first **Purity**

It is first pure,

then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

"Pure" is not #1 on a list of 8

* Pure grk 53 hagnos (hag-nos');
clean, innocent, perfect, virgin

Paul Used This Word...

2 Corinthians 11:2 NIV

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a **pure virgin** to him.

**That which is Pure,
has these following attributes...**

It's the Source to a list of 7

Example:

The Fruit of the Spirit is...LOVE first,

then joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:22-24

Philippians 4:8

whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things.

Wisdom and Purity will Walk Together

Matthew 11:19b

"Wisdom is justified by her children."

Her Children are Pure

and they practice peace, they're gentle, willing to yield (submissive), full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

In Christ, We are Born Again "Pure"
Before the World, we are to live a lifestyle of purity

The Absence of Wisdom
is evidence of an impure life

3c.) This Wisdom is **Obvious** to See

Then peaceable (**making efforts**), gentle (**not critical**), willing to yield (**approachable**), full of mercy (**forgiving**) and good fruits, without partiality (**not choosing sides**) and without hypocrisy. (**true sincerity**) - **without a mask**

(verse 18)

Now "the fruit of righteousness" (all of the above) is sown in peace (an active verb - verbing) by those who make (shalom) peace.

(To **bind** together in harmony)

to be getting along

"Peacemakers who sow in peace
reap a harvest of righteousness."

Ephesians 4:1-3

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Which of these Wisdoms Governs Your Life: Worldly Wisdom or Heavenly Wisdom?

Colossians 1:9-10

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;