

**October 4, 2020**

***The Bridge Bible Fellowship***

**Pastor Paul S. Brown**

**James 3:13-18**

**“Show Me God’s Wisdom” – Part 5**

**VIII. Show Me God’s Wisdom**

**A. The Question (13a)**

**B. The Command (13b)**

**C. The Contrast (14-18)**

**1. Wisdom from Below (14-16): Heart; Home; Harvest**

**2. Wisdom from Above (17-18)**

**a. The Home (17)**

**b. The Heart (17)**

**1) Primary Characteristic: First pure**

**2) Secondary Characteristics:**

**a) Peaceable – ready for peace; peace loving (Prov. 3:17; Heb. 12:11; Eph. 4:3; Rom. 12:18; 14:19; 1 Pet. 3:11)**

**b) Gentle – sweet reasonableness (1 Sam. 12:22; Dan. 3:42; 2 Cor. 10:1; 1 Tim. 3:3; Phil. 4:5; Titus 3:1-3)**

**c) Reasonable – “easy to be persuaded” (ex: 1 Sam. 25 – David & Abigail)**

**d) Full of mercy – compassion in action (Ps 86:5; 100:5; 103:8-14; Eph. 2:4; 1 Pet. 1:3; Tit. 3:5; Mt. 5:7; Jude 22-23; Rom. 12:8; Luke 10)**

**e) Full of good fruits – morally good fruit**

**f) Unwavering – undivided; consistent; without vacillation**

**g) Without hypocrisy – no mask; trustworthy; transparent (Rom. 12:9; 2 Cor. 6:5-7; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2:1; 1 Tim. 1:5; 4:1-2)**

**c. The Harvest (18)**

**1) Righteousness**

**2) Peace (Rom. 14:17-19; 15:33; 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:11; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 2:14-17; 4:3; Phil. 4:7-9; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Thess. 3:16; 2 Tim. 2:22; Heb. 12:14; 13:20)**

**So what?**

**1. Are you wise and understanding?**

**2. What worldly wisdom do you need to jettison from your life?**

**3. Study Theology. Study the person of God.**

**4. Let’s sow God’s wisdom, righteousness, and peace all over the world!**

## Discussion & Application:

1. What **specific intentional changes** have you made in your attitudes and actions in response to studying James 3:13-18? What worldly wisdom have you identified in your life and/or the lives of those close to you? What have you done to reject worldly wisdom and replace it with wisdom from above?
2. For each of the primary and secondary characteristics of wisdom from above, find an **illustration of it in the life of Jesus**. List the reference and discuss how Jesus demonstrated these characteristics:
  - Pure
  - Peaceable
  - Gentle
  - Reasonable
  - Full of mercy
  - Full of good fruits
  - Unwavering
  - Without hypocrisy
  - Sowing peace
  - Harvesting righteousness
3. Of those characteristics, which have you seen the greatest growth in your life in the past year?
4. Of those characteristics, which is the most difficult for you to apply on a consistent basis? What worldly wisdom is hindering this characteristic in your life? Ask those you know who are consistent in this characteristic for helpful suggestions to grow in this area and become more skillful in the application of God's wisdom.
5. When you see a fellow believer in Jesus walking in worldly wisdom, what is your responsibility? What are some specific things you can do before you talk to them? What are some wise ways to begin the conversation and then discuss the specific issue that concerns you? If they are open to being helped, what are some specific on-going things you can do to help them skillfully apply God's wisdom in their life?
6. James, inspired by the Holy Spirit, intentionally chose specific words that started with the same letter and had a rhythmic pattern to them. Pastor Paul believes he probably did this to help them memorize these words so they could recall them, meditate on them, and apply them to every area of life. How does memorizing God's Word help us grow in wisdom? How does it help us identify the wisdom of the world that is not only around us but has crept into our lives? Jesus quoted Scripture (specifically Deuteronomy) when He was tempted by the devil (Mt. 4). He fought off demonic wisdom with divine wisdom. Share an example of a time when a memorized verse of Scripture helped you fight off temptation and walk in obedience to God. What is your current plan to memorize Scripture?
7. If you haven't already done so, **memorize James 3:13-18**. Recite it in the morning and at lunchtime. In the evening, go back over James 1:1-3:18 so you don't forget what you have already memorized. Read & start memorizing **James 4:1-10** this week as well.

There is a way *which seems* right to a man, but its  
end is the way of death.

Proverbs 14:12; 16:25 (NASB95)

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes...  
Proverbs 12:15 (NASB95)

## VIII. Show Me God's Wisdom

James 3:13–18 (NASB95) – <sup>13</sup> Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

<sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and *so* lie against the truth.

<sup>15</sup> This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.



<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

<sup>18</sup> And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown  
in peace by those who make peace.

- A. The Question (13a)
- B. The Command (13b)
- C. The Contrast (14-18)

1. **Wisdom from Below (14-16)**  
**Heart; Home; Harvest**

## 2. **Wisdom from Above** (17-18)

a. The Home

b. The Heart

1) Primary Characteristic: First pure

## 2) Secondary Characteristics

a) Peaceable  
Cf. Heb. 12:11



- Preserve peace wherever it exists (Eph. 4:3)
- Pursue & promote peace wherever it does not exist  
(Rom. 12:18; 14:19; 1 Pet. 3:11)

b) Gentle

1 Tim. 3:3; Phil. 4:5; Tit. 3:1-3; Mt. 18:24-30

c) Reasonable

d) Full of Mercy

Ps. 86:15; 103:8-14; Eph. 2:4; 1 Pet. 1:3; Tit. 3:5  
Jude 22-23; Lk. 10

e) Full of Good Fruits

f) Unwavering

g) Without Hypocrisy

Rom. 12:9; 2 Cor. 6:5-7; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2:1;  
1 Tim. 1:5; 4:1-2

- a. The Home (17)
- b. The Heart (17)
- c. The Harvest (18)



## 1) Righteousness

“And the seed whose fruit is righteousness”

## 2) Peace

“is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

So What?

1. Are you wise and understanding?

2. What worldly wisdom do you need to jettison from your life?

3. Study Theology Proper. Study the Person of God.

4. Let's sow God's wisdom, righteousness, and peace  
all over the world!