

17 October 2023

What kind of wisdom do you have?

James has already taught us about counterfeit faith that produces no works in the lives of those who have it. James 2:14,18.

This morning, James goes further to provoke us in our Christianity to be proper reflections of Christ who is our True Light.... before this, James taught us "Show me your faith by your works" "Now, he commands us "Show me your works"! But there's "A HOW" that must be associated with our DOING and WORK as children of God!

Last week James taught us about how unbecoming an untamed tongue is for a believer in Christ.....and that the only One who can TAME an UNTAMED TONGUE is the Spirit of God!

Your tongue is one of the great revealers of what's in your heart child of God, this morning, "The Wisdom" by which you live your life is also a revealer of what is in your heart!

We can say what we will about ourselves, but our words and our behavior will tell the true story of our hearts!

James 3:13-18: The contrasts of "two wisdoms".

If you have "the wisdom" that is from above, from the Spirit of God, it will be known by how you speak, (or refrain from speaking), but also, by how you live, behave, and conduct yourself in the church, the world, your family, your workplace, (in traffic), and.... when you're all alone.

If you have "the wisdom" that DOES NOT come from above, but from the world, it will ALSO be known by how you behave in the church gathering, in the world, in your family, in your workplace, in traffic, and when you're all alone. What do these (2) wisdoms look like? James tells us!

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him SHOW out of a good conversation HIS WORKS, (here's the HOW), with meekness of wisdom."

Godly wisdom, the wisdom that is from above will show itself in your life by how you conduct yourself in the world, in your everyday life! In normal conversations, but also when you're HIT with unexpected providences.

For every one of you children of God, the wisdom that is from above doesn't just come automatically, you must be a diligent seeker of it and a spiritual miner in the Word! Proverbs 1:5, 2:1-9, 3:13

If you would be wise, Christian, you need to go FIND WISDOM, incline your ear, apply your heart, and cry out after it from the Word! It's a shame that ANY should be unwise as Christians! Colossians 3:16

So, FIRST, if you would have "The Wisdom that is from above", you must know your Bible! Biblical knowledge is essential!

- a. But be careful, because you can be filled with biblical knowledge and yet, have no wisdom from God! Knowledge puffs up. James teaches us....

Who is it among you, children of God, who not only knows the truth of God's Word.... but walks by that knowledge, practices what he knows, and behaves in such a way as to adorn what he or she believes?

Epistles of Christ known/read of all!

Many are able to talk about doctrine and pontificate about all that they know, (and you should be able to speak and testify about what you know to be true from the Word), but if you never obey and practice what you know to be true from the Word, you are not wise! You are to adorn the doctrine of God! Don't forget the HOW! The wisdom that is from above shows itself by meekness! It shows itself by NOT intending to show itself! My Brethren, MEEKNESS, is the ONLY WAY "Wisdom from above" will show itself in your life! When God saved you, He gave His Spirit, meekness is a fruit of the Spirit, but you must cultivate it in your life by the Word, by prayer, and by practice!

Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:1-3, Colossians 3:12

James pauses for a moment to teach us about "the other wisdom", that lower and more common wisdom. James 3:14-16

This wisdom needs no exposition, you know it when you see or hear it! Every one of us ought to have a holy zeal in the things of God, but what James describes here is a zeal that is venomous, bitter, hateful, and rotten with envy.

Proverbs 14:30, 27:4, Titus 3:3, and Romans 1:29 teaches us that the wicked are FILLED with envy and pride, my brethren, this must never be said of us!

The worst case of bitter envy, strife, and malicious hatred ever witnessed by the world against One Man came from zealous religious men.... Against the Lord Jesus, who was meek, lowly, and perfectly good.

If your life is full of angry bitterness, pride, and hateful envy, you are engulfed in the world's wisdom.
James 3:15, Ephesians 4:29-31

James now brings us back to that pure, peaceable, and gentle wisdom. James 3:17-18. Cp. James 1:5, 1:17

"My Brethren" HAPPY is the man or woman "THAT FINDS" THIS HEAVENLY WISDOM! And once you find it, you must KEEP IT! We know what the world's wisdom looks like, it's ugly, infectious, full of bitter turmoil and confusion.... In fact:
James 4:1-2

James already taught us that the wisdom that is from above is adorned in meekness, that's how it shows itself! Don't forget, it shows itself by NOT intending to show itself!
There's no pride associated with this wisdom!

The wisdom that is from above is FIRST: Pure, THEN Peaceable:

To be pure in heart and peacemakers are the 6th and 7th Beatitudes, which are "evidence" that the Kingdom of God is within you!

You should be GENTLE: Your Christianity should not be aggressive and imposing, but gentle, the wisdom that is from above makes you able to rule/restrain yourself and your passions. 2 Timothy 2:24-25, Titus 3:2

Easy to be intreated: You're willing to listen and hear, you're teachable.

Full of mercy and good fruits...you're consistently kind and compassionate toward others. And last, you're not biased or prejudiced in your spirit and attitude toward others.

This wisdom, these beatitudes are NOT just going to happen in you, you must find this wisdom in God's Word, and THEN, you must cultivate these truths in your life! Each one of us as Christians are to be striving, and zealous to GET THIS WISDOM!

James 3:18: "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." Did you know that every day in your life, Christian, you're sowing seed in the world? Oh, that it would be "good seed"!

The fruit of the righteousness that you possess Christian, this wisdom that is from above, is to be sown (broadcast) from your life! The way it is to be sown..... it is SOWN IN PEACE, not in strife and contention!

God intends to use the good seed of the gospel, amazingly, the wisdom of God coming from your life, Christian, to bring forth life and righteousness in the souls of lost sinners.... God also intends to use the good seed of His Word from your life to provoke other Christians to love and good works!

Don't forget the HOW this wisdom MUST come forth from your life...in meekness. What wisdom do you have? The wisdom that is from above? Or the wisdom that is from the world?