

BIBLICAL WISDOM #15 - HOLDING WISDOM

JAMES 3:1-18

A righteous tongue does not spew forth wickedness. A wise man does not show forth foolish works. Kind always follows kind.

I. WISDOM REQUESTED

- A. There is only one source of Wisdom: God JAMES 1:5
 - 1. God doesn't restrict this gift - NO limit!
 - 2. It is the most precious gift (PROV. 16:16)
 - 3. It is to be sought above all else (PROV. 4:7)
- B. Godly wisdom always agrees with God / Bible
 - 1. DIFFERENT kinds of wisdom exist (1 COR. 3:19)
 - 2. The fruits of each are obvious (vs. 13-17)
- C. Our biggest need is not worldly wisdom / street smarts
 - 1. Our biggest need: GODLY wisdom (1 JOHN 2:15-17)
 - 2. Everything else is temporary and passes away

II. WISDOM REJECTED

- A. Solomon requested wisdom from God 2 CHRON. 1:10-11
 - 1. While walking with God, he was wisest man alive
 - 2. When turned aside, he was a fool 1 KINGS 11:1-11
- B. Why? Because Solomon was double-minded! (JAMES 1:8)
- C. He exchanged godly wisdom for worldly and suffered

III. WISDOM RECEIVED

- A. It starts with the heart in SALVATION PROV. 9:10
- B. Wisdom USED CORRECTLY produces value (PROV. 2:3-6)
 - 1. Like a tool - intrinsically valuable (ex. Saw)
 - 2. But not for itself, for its INTENDED PURPOSE
 - 3. A saw does not make a good hammer!
- C. The Word of God is the key to wisdom (COL. 3:16)
 - 1. Dwells richly in us and SPREADS (PROV. 13:20)
 - 2. Imitation is more than flattery (1 COR. 11:1)

IV. WISDOM RETAINED

- A. How to hold Wisdom? Don't COMPROMISE! PROV. 23:23
 - 1. You cannot have a foot in both camps
 - 2. You cannot serve the world "just a little bit"
 - 3. Soon you will serve GOD "just a little bit"
- B. Jesus explains it twice MATT. 6:24 / LUKE 16:13
- C. Exercise wisdom muscles, stay in shape (1 TIM. 4:8)

PROV. 16:16 - "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!"

PROV. 4:7 - "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

1 COR. 3:19 - "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

1 JOHN 2:15-17 - "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

JAMES 1:8 - "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

PROV. 2:3-6 - "Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; (4) If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; (5) Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. (6) For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

COL. 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

PROV. 13:20 - "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

1 COR. 11:1 - "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

1 TIM. 4:8 - "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."