

JAMES #6 - WISDOM

JAMES 3:13-18

James deals with the heavy responsibility of teachers, warns on the dangers of the tongue in the first half of the chapter. The second half details the need for TRUE WISDOM in speech and life.

I. EXPLANATION OF WISDOM (v.13)

- A. "Learned and understanding" (Knowledge and/or Wisdom)
- B. Wisdom shown by good conversation (Noble lifestyle)
 - 1. A life lived above reproach
 - 2. Wisdom is tested by works not words
- C. A person of meekness - gentle in heart / strong in act
 - 1. The wise are meek like Jesus MATT. 11:28-29
 - 2. Opposite: proud/arrogant/high-minded 2 COR. 10:1
- D. Teachers must be both LEARNED and UNDERSTANDING

II. EFFECT OF FALSE WISDOM (v. 14-16)

- A. It has a DEFINITE source in the heart (v. 14)
 - 1. BITTER ENVYING: jealousy / resentful / ambition
 - 2. This is Hitler or the Rich Man LUKE 12:13-21
- B. It has DISTINCTIVE traits in its working (v. 15)
 - 1. Earthly: not from above or heavenly
 - 2. Sensual: unspiritual, animalistic, materialistic
 - 3. Devilish: demon-like, not associated with God
- C. It has DESTRUCTIVE consequences in a life (v.16)
 - 1. Confusion, disorder, unruliness
 - 2. False wisdom of Satan brought fall of man in sin

III. EVIDENCE OF TRUE WISDOM (v. 17-18)

- A. It is PROVIDED - "it comes from above"
- B. It is PURE - undefiled and free from selfish interests
- C. It is PEACEABLE - gentle, easy to be intreated
 - 1. It promotes AND promulgates peace PHIL. 4:7
 - 2. It is open to reason and quick to be courteous
- D. It is PRODUCTIVE
 - 1. Full of MERCY and GOOD FRUITS MATT. 7:15-20
 - 2. Mercy holds back even DESERVED retribution
 - 3. Good fruits are born of compassion for others
- E. It is WITHOUT PARTIALITY
 - 1. Not hypocritical but sincere and genuine
 - 2. God is no respecter of persons ACTS 10:34
- F. It is PERFECTING
 - 1. The wise are mature and blessed PROV. 3:13-17