

Study 5 True Wisdom James 3:13--4:18

Review Week one

**Evil...The process was that Our own Desires=Birth to Sin=Full grown=Death
Trials...The process was that Trials = Perseverance = Maturity
And we, out of all God's creation, became His**

PRIZED POSSESSION

Review Week two

Listening and Doing...

Christian Ethics...First, real religion controls the tongue.

Salvation and Obedience...Second, real religion hears and does Gods Word

Illustration the mirror and the Engrafted Word...

Third, Real religion receives Gods Word.

A Warning against Prejudice

Review Week 3

Faith without Good Deeds Is Dead

The obedience of Abraham in offering up his son Isaac was faith and works working together

The experience of Rahab was faith and works working together

We are His workmanship created to do good works.

Review Week 4

Controlling the Tongue... The Tongue needs to be Controlled

1. The first trait of the human tongue is that it is condemning.

2. The second trait of the human tongue is that it is controlling...like bit in the horses mouth...the rudder on a ship.. a spark to start a forest fire

3. The third trait of the human tongue is that it is corrupting...like poison or rust

4.The forth trait of the human tongue is that it is compromising...blessing and cursing out of same mouth.

Faith and works working together to control the tongue

Review Relationship of Jesus Sermon on the Mt and James

Controlling the Tongue

Matthew 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God...The opposite of that would be trouble makers

True Wisdom Comes from God...and is Active

The Bible is all about us becoming wise and understanding. How many of you have heard to read a chapter of Proverbs every day to gain wisdom?

Proverbs 1:7 gives us the key that unlocks the way to wisdom: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.” The main emphasis of the entire Bible is the fear of the Lord.

You and I can become wise by following the admonition of James 1:5: “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

We must show wisdom by how we live:

James 3:13—16 If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.

Just as faith without works is meaningless, so to wisdom that does not show itself in good deeds and good character is worthless.

Honorable life can be translated as “a beautiful lifestyle.” Notice that we demonstrate wisdom by the way we live and how we act with humility.

Humility is not weakness because it actually means **“strength under control.”**

Wisdom from Above

James 3:17—18 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.



This is a tool for very careful cultivating tender plants...Wisdom is a tender plant...Understanding how to use knowledge, good common sense.

Pure... This is the first quality that James lists but it’s more than just the first on the list; it’s the essential overarching characteristic of godly wisdom.

Peace-loving... Wisdom from above is pure and it’s also peace-loving. Purity speaks of one’s relationship with God and peace-loving characterizes our ability to get along with others.

Considerate... Are you gentle and reasonable with others or would people say that you're harsh?

Submissive... Are you approachable and willing to yield to others, or do you always need to be right and have things your way?

Full of mercy... Are you compassionate with those who are hurting and do you look for practical ways to help?

Good fruit... Are you fruitful a harvest of righteousness, spiritual fruit in your life?

Impartial... Are you treating people the same or do you show favoritism to a few?

Sincere... Are you real what would people say that you're hypocritical or that you're the real?



The fruit of the Spirit in our lives will grow and bear even more righteous fruit. Then that fruit is planted and bears more and more and more and more. Do you see the picture? James is saying that the fruit of one truly wise person can be the seed for an entire harvest of wisdom.

Wisdom from Below... is Self-Serving

Solomon...Ask God for wisdom and he was known as one of the wisest people ever: **Remember this?**



But his wisdom was corrupted by selfish ambition.

James 3:15—16 For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

Unspiritual in Greek this word describes animals that are only concerned about survival.

Demonic of the devil this is strong language and is very similar to what James said about the tongue in 3:6: "is itself set on fire by hell."

Wisdom from below has its fruit and harvest. Worldly wisdom leads to some pretty foul fruit envy and selfish ambition; there you find disorder and every evil practice."



Children lined up in the cafeteria of a religious school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The teacher made a note: "Take only one, God is watching." At the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A boy wrote a note: **"Take all you want, God is watching the apples."**

Wisdom from below comes from reason. Wisdom from above comes from revelation in God's Word.

Claim the promise of James 3:18: "Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness." Wisdom from above will draw us closer to God and now James deals with what is need to Draw Near to God

Drawing Close to God

James 4:1—2 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.

We use improper methods to get what we want. We trust our skills and our strength. We need to ask God; but we need to ask with motives of love and service, not motives of selfish power, envy, and pleasure.

Different times of life there will be different quarrels and fights.



"We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God"
-Thomas Merton

Prayer, Hindrances

James 4:3—4 And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

James gave a clear indication why some prayers are not answered. The object of the request would not glorify God or advance His kingdom; it would be spent on personal pleasure.

Friendship with the world would be living by wisdom from below and not wisdom from above.

Holy Scripture, Authoritative

James 4:5—6 What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy? But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but favors the humble."



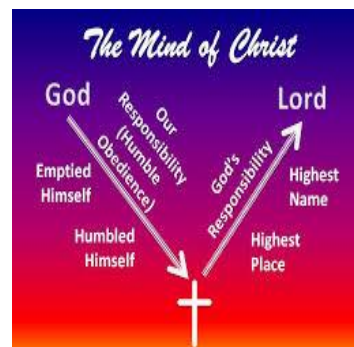
We humble ourselves

Paul in Romans 7:15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. V. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Draw near to Jesus and the Work He did for us will bring us near to God!



James 4:7—10 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.



Conclusion

Philippians 2: 5—1 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Questions and Comments