

Readings

Scripture

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- James 3:13-18 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- Matthew 5:3-12 (English Standard Version)

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.

Matthew 7:24-27 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Seeking the Fruit of Godly Wisdom

James 3:13-18

True Religion

Stephen Baldwin

*The Lord is instructing us in the fruit of godly wisdom.
How does he instruct us?*

He shows us that...

The fruit of humble wisdom is an upright life (James 3:13)

The fruit of earthly wisdom is turmoil (James 3:14-16)

The fruit of heavenly wisdom is shalom (James 3:17-18)

Reflection Questions

James starts this section by again making the connection between wisdom, as introduced in chapter 1:5, and its results—its fruit.

- What do you make of the fact that James asks the question, “Who is wise and understanding among you (verse 13)?
- What does it suggest that “Who” is a singular pronoun?
- Can you discern one of the Ten Commandments in what James teaches about boasting as something that is false to the truth?
- When one finds disorder, discord, conflict and disintegration what does James teach is at the root and heart of that fruit?
- In verses 17 and 18 what fruit is produced by “the wisdom from above?” Try to describe a setting that has the fruit named at work in it. Have you been in such a place?
- What does the Bible mean by “shalom” (which the New Testament translates “peace”)? See Revelation 21:3-5a; 22:1-5.
- James’ agricultural metaphor is that the qualities of heavenly wisdom produce a harvest. What he describes contrasts greatly from the turmoil produced by earthly wisdom. Have you observed this in operation in recent months?