



"Apps for Life"  
A Study of James

James 3:13-18

April 1, 2012

VIII. The Wisdom App: (3:13-18; 1 Kings 3:5-14)

-Wisdom is defined by God as a discerning heart. God defines a discerning heart as one that can "distinguish between right and wrong." A person who is wise is simply someone who walks in humble obedience to God.

A. One type of wisdom: the wisdom of the world. (3:15)

1. Origin: This kind of wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.

a. Earthly: It is of this world.

"Worldly wisdom is limited to this present, material world of time and space. By definition, it is restricted to things that man can theorize, discover, and accomplish by himself. It has no place for God or the things of God. It has no place for spiritual truth or illumination." - John MacArthur

b. Worldly wisdom is unspiritual or natural. (1 Cor 2:14)

c. Worldly wisdom is demonic.

- 1). The wisdom of the world comes directly from the heart and mind of Satan, who is the great deceiver. (II Cor 4:4; 1 Jn 5:19)

- 2). Satan's great desire is to blind people, and his mode of operation is confusion

"Man's wisdom comes from reason, while God's wisdom comes from revelation. Man's worldly wisdom will come to nothing, while God's wisdom will endure forever."  
-Warren Wiersbe

2. Characteristics: Jealousy or envy and selfish ambition are its trademarks. (3:16; 1 Jn 2:15-17)

3. Outcome: Their lives will be a display of disorder and every vile practice. (3:16)

a. The idea of disorder has the basic meaning of instability and confusion, and vile conveys the idea of being worthless.

B. Another type of wisdom: the wisdom of God! (3:17)

1. Origin: The wisdom from above is heavenly, spiritual and godly.

a. The only way a person can have access to His wisdom is to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

b. God reveals His wisdom to His children.  
(Rom 12:2; Isa 30:21)

2. Characteristics: (3:13, 17)

a. When a man or woman lives by God's wisdom their lives will reflect order and clarity.

b. Their lives will be marked by the following virtues: meekness, purity, peace, gentleness, reasonableness, mercy, good deeds, impartiality, and sincerity. (3:17)

"Meekness is the right use of power, and wisdom is the right use of knowledge." - Warren Wiersbe

c. All of these are the virtues of divine wisdom that are revealed in Scripture and that are produced in believers by the Holy Spirit.

- C. Outcome: Their lives (wise people) will produce a harvest of righteousness. (3:18; Matt 5:14-16)