

OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION

JANUARY 3, 2021

Prelude

~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

Welcome - Collin Hamlin, Worship Intern

***Call to Worship - Proverbs 1:1-7**

~God's invitation for us to engage in worship in the Holy Spirit

***Weekly Congregational Response**

~Our humble response to God's call to worship

***Prayer of Invocation**

~The giving of thanks for God's promised presence and work among us

***Song of Preparation and Praise - Psalm 86**

~Our celebration of God as our good and faithful Abba Father

***Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - Matthew 7:21-27**

~Our admission of our failures and need for Christ as Savior

***Prayer in Response to Our Assurance of Pardon**

***Song of Comfort - Jesus, Lover of My Soul**

~Our praise of Jesus as our Savior

Pastoral Prayer

~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

Sermon - The Humble Fruits of God's Wisdom James 3:13-18

***Song of Response - Let Me Find Thee**

~Our commitment to apply God's Word in and through our lives

***Announcements**

~Weekly opportunities to live out the Word read, confessed, prayed, sung, and preached

***Benediction - Colossians 1:9-10**

~God's parting blessing as we are sent out on His redemptive mission

*Stand

"THE HUMBLE FRUITS OF GOD'S WISDOM"

JAMES 3:13-18

CAMERON BARHAM

Key Truth: God's wisdom mortifies our bitter jealousies and selfish ambitions while also humbly producing the fruits of repentance and the fruit of the Spirit.

Introduction:

Q: *What evidences to you that someone is wise and has understanding according to God's wisdom?*

"Our fear (of the Lord), then, is a proper reverence which makes them inseparable. Our fear, then, is a proper reverence for one who has made himself known and whom we therefore know for ourselves. But the Bible nowhere places much value on knowledge that remains merely cerebral or creedal. Nothing is known until it also reshapes the life.

For this reason, the way of wisdom is the way of obedience (e.g. Deut. 4:5-6).

'Knowledge,' at its deepest, is living out a deep personal relationship."

J. Alec Motyer, *The Message of James: The Tests of Faith*

James 3:13-16: The Poisonous Fruits of Bitter Jealousy and Selfish Ambition:

"('Bitter jealousy') combined with 'selfish ambition'..., a word commonly used in settings of sectarian rivalry or partisan politics, the image appears of people in angry competition, undermining one another and each fighting for their own rights, a far cry from 'the humility of wisdom.'"

Craig L. Blomberg and Mariam J. Kamell, *James: Zondervan Exegetical Commentary the New Testament*

Q: *What sparks bitter jealousy and/or selfish ambition in you? What is the result of these poisonous fruits in your life?*

James 3:17-18: The Humble Fruits of God's Wisdom:

"The wisdom required in the world is a holy innocence, not a Machiavellian guile (see Matthew 10:19). It is the glory of a (person) to be a fool in sin and wise in grace. Be careful, then, to pursue the great plan of holiness. This will make you conform to God, which is (humanity's) excellence; it will bring you to enjoy God, which is (humanity's) happiness (see Matthew 5:8 and Hebrews 12:14)."

Thomas Manton, *James*

Q: *What evidences that you are wise and understanding according to God's wisdom? What is the result of these humble fruits in your life?*

Application:

James 3:13-18 teaches us that God's wisdom:

-mortifies our bitter jealousies and selfish ambitions

-humbly produces the fruits of repentance and the fruit of the Spirit

Benediction: Colossians 1:9-10