

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

James 3:13-18

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read James 3:13-18.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

13 Who among you is wise and understanding?

Let him show by his good behavior his deeds
in the gentleness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart,
do not be arrogant
and so lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above,
but is earthly,
natural,
demonic.

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist,
there is disorder and every evil thing.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure,
then peace-loving,
gentle,
reasonable,
full of mercy and good fruits,
impartial,
free of hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace
by those who make peace.

1. What is the context of the verses preceding this passage in chapter 3?

2. How does the context of the verses preceding this passage in chapter three lead into verses 13-18?

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3. What is the purpose of the question that is asked in verse 13?
4. What are the main commands of this passage?
5. How does one reveal that he/she is wise and has understanding?
6. Why do these things reveal wisdom or the lack of it?
7. How does gentleness and good behavior reveal wisdom?
8. Why do you think James used gentleness as the benchmark of godly wisdom? Why not any other attribute?

❖ Day 2

Read James 3:13-18

9. What does James say is in the heart of one who does not have this type of wisdom? Note the contrast in verse 14.

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10. What is the condition that sets up the command to not be arrogant? Why would this be the case?
11. How are arrogance and lying against the truth connected?
12. Aside from the commands what is the dominant type of verb in this passage?
13. What does James mean by wisdom from above?
14. How does verse 16 clarify verses 14-15?
15. What is included in every evil thing?

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❖ Day 3

Read James 3:13-18

16. How is disorder born out of jealousy and selfish ambition?

17. What does James say that wisdom from above looks like?

18. What attribute is emphasized the most from this list in verse 17-18?

19. Why might James have honed in on these specific attributes of wisdom that is from above?

20. Why is righteousness brought up in verse 18?

21. What does verse 18 mean?

22. Summarize this passage in one sentence.

23. How should this passage shape your life this week?