

That Gentle Wisdom
James 3:13-18

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 What comes to mind when you hear “wisdom”? (4x in letter -1:5; 3:13,15,17)
- 0.2 “Is anyone wise?” – the paradox
- 0.3 “The fear of the Lord...the *beginning* of wisdom” (Prov.1:7; 9:10) – do *you* want this?

1.0 The Nature of Wisdom

- 1.1 The “art of steering through life”
- 1.2 A promise for happy & wholesome life
- 1.3 Two kinds of wisdom: from below (v.14-16) *versus* from above (vv.17-18)
- 1.4 For James, highly practical: “show it” (v.13)

2.0 The Nurture of Wisdom

- 2.1 Personal growth is a complex picture
- 2.2 If you ask God for wisdom (1:5), what are you requesting?
- 2.3 Like all skills, it takes practice
- 2.4 The place of suffering/failure in its development
- 2.5 Requires humility (v.13; also, Phil.2:5-11 vs. Jas.3:14 // see v.17)

2.0 The Importance of This for Us Today

- 3.1 Got wisdom? Ask for *more*.
- 3.2 Peace-makers (v.18 // Matt.5:7-9)

Next week (March 21) – A Humble Soul - James 4:1-10

James 3:13-18 (NASB)

Wisdom from Above

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.