

Earthly and Heavenly Wisdom, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: James 3:13-18.
- B. If you claim to have wisdom, you have the burden of proof to show that you have that wisdom.
- C. Men in the Old Testament sought for God's wisdom. (Proverbs 4:7, 1 Kings 3, Job 28, Psalm 2:10, Ezra 7:25, Daniel 1:17)
- D. Wisdom is not a question of knowledge, but application of knowledge.
- E. God calls everyone to be wise and have understanding.

II. Divine wisdom produces a changed life.

- A. We show wisdom generally by good behavior.
- B. We show wisdom specifically through individual acts.
- C. We show wisdom through our attitudes. Wisdom is meekness. (Matthew 11:29, James 1:21, Galatians 5)

III. In order to understand the distinction between human wisdom and godly wisdom we must go to Old Testament wisdom literature.

- A. Ecclesiastes reveals the folly of human wisdom. The dilemma of man today is that so much of what he pursues is fruitless. The wisdom of God is always related to one's relationship to God.
- B. God is the source of true wisdom. (Job 9:4, Psalm 104:24, Proverbs 3:19, Jeremiah 10:12, Daniel 1:17, Romans 11, Ephesians 3:10, 1 Timothy 1:17, James 1, Job 28)
- C. Wisdom is to be pursued. God has made it available. (Proverbs 1)
- D. True wisdom is fearing God and walking from iniquity. (Proverbs 13)
- E. We are to hold on to wisdom because it is the source of life. (Proverbs 14)
- F. Christ is our wisdom. (1 Corinthians 1:30)

Application Questions:

1. What are some forms of false wisdom in the world today?

2. By what criterion do we validate true wisdom?

3. How will you commit yourself to growing in God's wisdom? Explain.
