

Earthly and Heavenly Wisdom, Part 3

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: James 3:13-18.
- B. Wisdom is evidence of the kind of person one is.
- C. True wisdom is knowing God in a life-changing relationship.
- D. Wisdom begins when one is ushered into a reverential relationship with God.

II. The New Testament ties wisdom to the act of believing. Wisdom is equated with salvation. (Matthew 26:24; 24:32, 1 Corinthians 1:23, 2 Timothy 3:15)

III. The test.

A. False, worldly wisdom.

- 1. Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition motivates the human heart. One should not claim a wisdom that he is not living.
- 2. This wisdom is not from God. (1 Corinthians 2:14)
 - a. It is a product of the natural world.
 - b. It is a product of a person's fleshy self.
 - c. It is demoniacal.
- 3. Earthly wisdom produces confusion and chaos. It produces nothing pragmatic.

B. True wisdom.

- 1. It is pure in motive.
- 2. Its character.
 - a. It is peaceable. (Matthew 5:9)
 - b. It is gentle.
 - c. It is easy to be entreated.
 - d. It is full of mercy. (Matthew 5:7)
 - e. It is impartial and does not vacillate.
 - f. It is without hypocrisy.
- 3. Righteousness flourishes in a climate of peace with peacemakers. (Ephesians 5:15)

Application Questions:

1. What are some examples of worldly wisdom that are not really examples of wisdom at all?

2. What is the relationship between true wisdom and salvation?

3. How can we identify and stay clear from false wisdom?
