

Jesse Nelsen, January 13, 2013

Godly Wisdom in Teaching

James 3:1-12

Introduction:

1. There are many passages which let us know, plainly, that God's wisdom is above human wisdom
2. Did you ever stop to wonder if God's wisdom can be our own? A misunderstanding of Isaiah 55:8-9 has led some to believe that we cannot understand God
3. 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:13- we have the mind of Christ given by the Spirit of God
4. Isaiah 55:10-13- God's words come down like the rain and is supposed to have an impact, it wasn't
5. James is going to give us a practical way to have the wisdom of God and it is expressed in the way we live our lives.

Discussion:

I. The Question (13a)

A. In Context

1. James is still talking about those who teach
2. James is still dealing with the tongue and the damage it can do if not controlled

B. Who among you is wise and understanding?

1. Wise (*Sophos*)- teacher
2. Understanding (*epistemon*)- intelligent, experienced, one having the knowledge of an expert
3. The question is who among you is really a skilled teacher?
4. One can be wise without knowledge, or knowledgeable without wisdom, not so with godly wisdom

II. The Problem (14-16)

A. Self-seeking hearts (Self-ambition)

1. Bitter (bad tasting) envy- This is constructed for emphasis, not just envy but the envy that leaves a bad taste in the mouth. One cannot get the feeling out of their heart
2. Self- Seeking- Actually would be better translated a partisan (A person wholly dedicated to a party, even if found to be wrong.
3. Do not boast or be arrogant and lie against the truth. These people feel themselves better because of their attainments. If they have to deny truth to make themselves more popular or well-known they will.

B. Self- Seeking wisdom is not from God

1. It is earthly (Existing upon the earth), sensual (unspiritual) and demonic (Demon-like, evil spirit)
2. Where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion (disorder) and every evil thing are

III. The Solution (13b, 17, 18)

A. The Monks got it all wrong!! (13b)

1. One way we know that we have wisdom and understanding is by our actions. (A godly life)
2. God's test for those who claim to be wise
 - a. Good conduct in works, not our good arguments
 - b. In gentleness of wisdom, not boasting of our knowledge
3. The world's standards differ from God's standards (Matt 20:20-28; 1 Cor. 1:18-31)

B. Wisdom from above!!! (Proverbs 2:1-6)

1. First Pure (wholly good), then peaceable (exhibiting the ability to remain peaceful)
 - a. Gentle and willing to yield- the ability to suffer wrong in the cause of right, open to reason
 - b. Full of Mercy and good fruits- full of compassion with the right attitude of heart
 - c. Without Partiality and without hypocrisy- does not distinguish nor deceive
3. Fruit of righteousness is sown or taught in peace by those who make peace!
 - a. Fruit of righteousness- the summation of all the previous characteristics or the good which righteousness prompts its possessor to do. Things done with the right heart!!
 - b. In Peace by those who make peace. Those who have the peace that passes understanding doing things because of that peace

Conclusion:

1. Only those who enter into God's thoughts and ways are the ones who are ready and able to teach
2. It is a heart condition, a heart that has been conditioned by God and His principles, not those of the world.
3. Can we answer this question? Is our wisdom from above or that of the earth, sensual and demonic?
4. Jesus gave His life so that we may have life eternal, the wisdom of God is the cross of Jesus Christ!!