

James 3:13-18
Pillar Church

Introduction:

Passage:

“Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have any bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. The seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

Summary Statement: In James 3:13-18 we can see that there are two types of wisdom, and that the believer should only be seeking one of them.

I. EARTHLY WISDOM

What is Earthly Wisdom? The Bible gives a few pictures of what “man’s wisdom” looks like.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES ARE:

Genesis 11 --- *The Tower of Babel.* End result: Confusion

Genesis 16 --- *Abram with Hagar.* On going war between his decedents

Acts 7 - 8 --- *Saul’s Zeal for God.* Persecuted the Church and also in turn persecuted Jesus Christ.

MODERN DAY EXAMPLES:

Motivation --- You need to be motivated

Make A Name --- You need to make a name for yourself

Go Getter --- He or She sees what they want or what needs to be done and they do it.

Corporate Ladder --- Work Hard and move up in positions

Be A Man --- Suck it up and deal with it

“Cow Boy Up” --- Do what needs to be done.

Whether we are looking at modern day examples of earthly wisdom or Biblical ones, they all have the same roots.

What are the roots of all earthly wisdom?

ROOTS OF EARTHLY WISDOM

1. BITTER JEALOUSY

Jealousy -- can and is sometimes translated as zeal. An example of this would be:

Colossians 4:13 "For I testify for him that he has deep concern (or zeal) for those who are in Laodicea."

Bitter -- harsh or unpleasant, this can also carry the idea of a disregard for others.

Definition: This word combination carries the idea of having distaste for others well being when it means that you are

2. SELFISH AMBITION -- "This word is found before NT times only in Aristotle where it denotes a self-seeking pursuit of political office by unfair means."

Definition: It carries the idea of self gain. Only being concerned with the gain of your self. Whatever needs to be done to see to it that you in the end gain. It is a drive that one has for self preservation.

Earthly Wisdom: Is the line of reasoning that is used by an individual with the: selfishness and jealousy, for the

pursuit of gaining advantage for one's self.

But where does Earthly Wisdom come from?

ORIGINS OF EARTHLY WISDOM

1. EARTHLY - 1 Corinthians 1:21 states "For since the Wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God,.."

One of the origins is that it comes from this world. All the line of thinking and reasoning is founded in this world system, which left in its self it cannot point anyone to God.

2. NATURAL - This word is also translated fleshly. It carries the idea that earthly wisdom is sinful. To carry out earthly wisdom is a fleshly act which in turn is sin.

3. DEMONIC - Earthly wisdom is Satanic. In Ephesians we learn that we struggle against not flesh and blood but rather against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Earthly wisdom is not cute, nor is it a simple mistake. It is the very working of Satan. He has set up such a system to where many are tricked and deceived. Earthly wisdom is sinful and natural. In its most basic form it is in contrast to God's Word.

II. HEAVENLY WISDOM

ROOTS OF HEAVENLY WISDOM

1. PURE -- 1 Peter 2:2 calls the word of God "The pure milk of the word,..." God's Word is Pure! Heavenly wisdom can be known through God's Word. Also this word carries the idea of purity. Purity can only be obtained by the blood of Jesus Christ.

2. PEACEABLE -- Wiersbe in "Be Mature" states, "Peace is based on holiness, not compromise. God Never has "peace at any price." The peace of the church is not more important than the purity of the church. If the church is pure devoted to God, then there will be peace." As long as we stay devoted to the pure Word of God then there will be peace.

3. GENTLE -- a basic meaning would be that it is suitable. That heavenly wisdom fits all situations.

4. REASONABLE -- easy to obey. When an individual follows heavenly wisdom they can easily follow God's Wisdom.

5. FULL OF MERCY AND GOOD FRUITS -- Christ was the ultimate example of what it means to be full of mercy (Showing compassion to those undeserving) and good fruits (showing effort to help others). Heavenly wisdom is never founded in selfishness but rather in mercy and good fruits.

6. UNWAVERING -- Heavenly wisdom is always the same because it is founded in God's Word.

7. WITHOUT HYPOCRISY -- Full of integrity. There is no need to be afraid, because heavenly wisdom is always true.

Where does heavenly come from? We stated that it can be found in God's Word, but where does it come from?

ORIGINS OF HEAVENLY WISDOM

COMES DOWN FROM ABOVE -- GOD, He gives Heavenly wisdom.

CALL TO ACTION...

**REPENT IF YOU HAVE BEEN
DISPLAYING OR BRINGING FORTH
EARTHLY WISDOM.**

ASK GOD FOR HEAVENLY WISDOM

**READ GOD'S WORD TO GAIN WISDOM
FROM ABOVE.**