

*The Necessity of Divine Wisdom*  
**James 3:13-18**

I. Introduction

- A. Why does High Pointe exist? – Colossians 1:27-28
- B. DG, Jerry Bridges and Demas – Colossians 4:14 (AD 62); Philemon 1:24 (AD 62); 2 Timothy 4:9-10 (AD 64)
- C. James has helped us to address this concern:
  - 1. James reminded us that only those who endure under trials will receive eternal life (1:12).
    - a. Therefore, we are to rejoice in the face of trials because the testing of our faith (1:2) produces endurance (1:3).
  - 2. James also told us that one of the fruits of endurance is spiritual maturity/wholeness (1:4).
    - a. The person who is spiritually whole or mature is a person who has wisdom (1:5).
    - b. We have defined wisdom as follows: **Wisdom is a divine grace that “involves biblical insight into God’s purposes and ways” (Moo) which provides the basis for a biblical outlook on life that leads to righteous living.**
  - 3. For James, the true Christian is one who has divine wisdom that leads to a biblical way of life that is evidenced in righteous living.
- D. James has been concerned to make sure people are not mistaken about these truths and find themselves condemned in the final judgment. So he warns:
  - 1. A mere hearer of the word is not a genuine Christian (1:23).
  - 2. A person who cannot bridle his or her tongue - their religion is worthless (1:26).
  - 3. A person who professes to have faith but has no works is a fool, not a Christian (2:20).
  - 4. A person’s speech gives evidence of what is in their hearts (3:1-12).

II. Proposition

- A. Now, James essentially says: “Put your money where your mouth is!”
  - 1. If you say you are wise (spiritually whole/mature) – then show it (3:13).
  - 2. James COMMANDS: Let (imperative) whoever is wise and understanding by his good conduct show his works in the gentleness of wisdom (3:13).
- B. In other words, our conduct/life either exposes our evil works or demonstrates our righteous works indicating whether we possess the wisdom of the world or the wisdom from above.

III. Exposition

- A. **By their lives fools display the wisdom of this world in their works of evil (3:13-16).**
  - 1. The source of worldly wisdom (3:15):
    - a. Earthly, natural, demonic – It is against God (James 4:4)
  - 2. The characteristics of worldly wisdom (3:14):
    - a. Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart
  - 3. The fruit of worldly wisdom (3:16):
    - a. Disorder & every evil thing
    - b. This type of wisdom produces divisions and fights and factions.
      - 1). ILLUS: speech and division (James 3:1-12), churches and division, SBTS parking lot
      - 2). James is obviously dealing with conflict and divisions (James 4:1-4).
- B. **By their lives Christians display the wisdom from above in their works of righteousness and peace (3:13, 17-18).**
  - 1. The source of heavenly wisdom (James 3:17a):

- a. It is imparted by God's servants, the apostles (now enscripturated): 1 Corinthians 2:1-7
- b. But its source is God above: 1 Corinthians 2:10-13

- 2. The characteristics of heavenly wisdom (James 3:17):
  - a. Pure – moral innocence
  - b. Peace loving
  - c. Considerate – gentle
  - d. Yielding – open to reason – willing to yield rather than demand rights
  - e. Full of mercy and good fruits – deeds of mercy flow from it (1:26)
  - f. Impartial or stable/unmovable – without prejudice or without wavering (2:1-13)
  - g. Without hypocrisy – sincere (not double-minded – 1:6-8).
- 3. The fruit of heavenly wisdom (James 3:18):
  - a. Righteousness sown in peace by peacemakers:
    - 1). The soil = peace
    - 2). The sower = peacemakers
    - 3). The harvest = righteousness
  - b. Motyer: “A harmonious fellowship of believers is the soil out of which grows the whole life that is pleasing to God” (138).
    - 1). What does that look like? Ephesians 4:1-6

IV. Conclusion: Do you live a life that is pleasing to God, a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called?

A. Two ways: Worldly wisdom and heavenly wisdom – which way characterizes you?

- 1. Is your life marked by disorder, every evil thing that flows from bitter jealousy and selfish ambition?
  - a. Marriage? Family? Church? Work? relationships
- 2. Is your life marked by righteousness and peace that flows from a transformed heart?

B. Two destinies:

- 1. Worldly wisdom leads to destruction – Matthew 7:13
  - a. Destruction of your marriage, family, church, work relationship . . .
- 2. Heavenly wisdom leads righteousness that flow from a new heart and lead to life – Matthew 7:24-27

C. Two choices:

- 1. Embrace the wisdom of this world and declare yourself an enemy of God (James 4:4)!
  - a. Those who embrace worldly, natural wisdom cannot accept the things of God:
    - 1). 1 Corinthians 2:8-9, 14
- 2. Embrace the wisdom of God and live!
  - a. Let's see the wisdom of God – 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
    - 1). Christ is our wisdom – 1 Corinthians 1:30
  - b. Since wisdom is from God (Proverbs 2:6), then, we must ask God in faith (James 1:5).

D. In Christ alone, is there salvation and wisdom for this life and hope for the life to come!

- 1. Explain the wisdom of God – the gospel! Jesus Christ crucified for us!
  - a. Romans 5:1-5 (clarify Justification and sanctification)!

© 2007 High Pointe Baptist Church and Pastor Juan Sanchez - 12030 Dessau Rd, Austin Texas 78754

**Permissions:** You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do *not* alter the wording in any way, you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction, and you do not make more than 1,000 physical copies. For web posting, a link to this document on our website is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be explicitly approved by High Pointe Baptist Church.

**Please include the following statement on any distributed copy:** By Juan Sanchez. © 2007 High Pointe Baptist Church. Website: <http://www.hpbccglobal.org> Email: [info@hpbccglobal.org](mailto:info@hpbccglobal.org). Phone: 512.837.7725.