**The book of James pt 6: *The Wisdom of God***

# James 3:13--18 …*the* ***Wisdom which is from above…***

(13) Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

* ***Wise:*** [sophos] Properly, having knowledge; hence, having the power of discerning and judging correctly, or of discriminating between what is true and what is false; between what is fit and proper, and what is improper… Discrete and judicious in the use or applications of knowledge; choosing laudable ends, and the best means to accomplish them.
* ***Wisdom takes knowledge and formulates a plan for a situation…which becomes a way of living.***
* **1 Cor 1:20 *Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*** – the WAY, truth and life. Jesus doesn’t just teach wisdom, He MAKES us wise – HIS wisdom.
* ***Man’s wisdom is based upon what will achieve the best temporal outcome. God’s wisdom had eternal redemption in mind:***

**Ephesians 3:10-11** so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord… **HISTORY SHOWS A BUMPY RIDE!**

* The multimembered body of Christ…not made up of what the world’s wisdom would gather
* Demonstrated through our unity and our love for one another – that every tribe, tongue and nation CAN live in love together.

# 1 Cor 1:20-31 *start with v.26…*

COMMUNION

* The cross is foolishness to the world’s wisdom: You must be the strongest to win.

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom.

* Jesus won by “losing.” We overcome evil with good. We show mercy where justice seems required, when we are at our weakest we are at our strongest, and by dependency we become free.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

* Follows tongue chapter, because God intends His glory to be seen in how His church lives together

HOW TO MESS IT UP…

(14) But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. (15) This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. (16) For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

* ***Jealousy/ envy*** [zelos] -- excitement of mind, ardour, fervour of spirit 1a) zeal, ardour in embracing, pursuing, defending anything -- **MISDIRECTED ZEAL CAN BE A VERY DANGEROUS THING!**

Acts 5:17-18 But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy. (18) They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.

John 2:17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."

* As soon as we lock in on a “cause” – if we fail to remain humble and willing to listen, we may end up with misdirected zeal!
* ***Selfish ambition*** [eritheia] electioneering or intriguing for office -- a desire to put one’s self forward, a partisan and fractious spirit which does not disdain low arts **POLITICAL SPIRIT/ CONTROL**
* Low arts: misuse of the tongue (gossip, slander, complaining, -- no excuses – “I’m just venting…being honest…” **you are responsible for whatever fire your tongue starts**
* ***Earthly, natural, demonic…disorder/ confusion and every evil thing)***
* ***We have the capacity to partner with principalities to whom we are meant to show the manifold wisdom of God! We do so whenever we engage in this kind of wisdom***

(17) But the wisdom from above is

first pure, ***exciting reverence, venerable, sacred, pure – turns the heart toward the God who spoke it***

then peaceable, ***brings peace with it*** – ***not adding gas to the fire***

Prov 26:20-21 For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down. Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

gentle, ***equitable, fair, mild, gentle…***

Prov 15:1-2 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly. *A spoonful of sugar…*

reasonable, ***easily entreated, easily obeying, compliant***

Prov 13:10 Through insolence comes nothing but strife, But wisdom is with those who receive counsel.

* **LEARNING TO LISTEN IS THE KEY TO GAINING THE FULL WISDOM OF GOD ON A MATTER. IF WE LISTEN TO RESPOND, WE ARE NOT LISTENING**

 full of mercy and good fruits, ***shows compassion – never judgment. Practical help.*** *Leads one to the cross****.***

unwavering, ***without partiality, without dubiousness, ambiguity or uncertainty*** *not angling for something*

**Prov 18:*5 To show partiality to the wicked is not good, Nor to thrust aside the righteous in judgment.***

* This is the root of partisan politics – when we give a “pass” to those we like better.
* Can affect parenting – showing favoritism

without hypocrisy. ***unfeigned, undisguised, sincere***  *NO HIDDEN AGENDAS*

Prov 26:18-19 Like a madman who throws Firebrands, arrows and death, So is the man who deceives his neighbor, And says, "Was I not joking?"

 (18) And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.