

**JAMES: THE SHOE LEATHER GOSPEL**  
**SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**  
**“FAITH AND TRUE WISDOM”**  
**JAMES 3: 13-18**

III. Car. Road. Life....What is driving the car of your life?

**Key Truth:** The kind of wisdom demonstrated through the c\_\_\_\_\_ of your life reveals whether your faith in the Lord is real or not.

- Our choices and our actions give evidence of what wisdom is driving the car of our life!
- In James 1: 1-5....James tells us HOW TO GET WISDOM  
In James 3: 13-18....James tells us HOW WE K\_\_\_\_\_ IF WE HAVE TRUE WISDOM

“Wisdom”: appears 300 times in the OT; appears 100 times in Proverbs alone

- “Knowledge enables us to take things apart, but wisdom enables us to put things together and related God’s truth to daily life.” -Wiersbe

“The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost you all you have, get understanding.” Proverbs 4:7

- In this passage, James is going to contrast two types of wisdom:  
E\_\_\_\_\_ wisdom vs H\_\_\_\_\_ wisdom (true wisdom)

**Three Contrasts:**

**I. The S\_\_\_\_\_ of the Wisdom (vv.15-17)**

- True wisdom is from above but false wisdom comes from below.

**False Wisdom....“Wisdom from Below”**

- False wisdom is a “man-made wisdom” that does not come from God but from this world. Thus, it is destined to f\_\_\_\_\_. This false wisdom comes from reason and reason alone without any consideration of the Lord, His will, or His word.

Examples of the foolishness of man’s wisdom:

1. Tower of Babel (Gen. 11: 1-9)
2. Abraham’s Detour Down in Egypt (Gen. 12: 10-20)

- What is the source of false wisdom? “*earthly, unspiritual, and demonic*”

**“Earthly”**: limited to what man can discover and figure out on his own; no input from above

**“Sensual”**: natural (Greek word psuke meaning “life” or “soul; our English word psychology is derived from it); refers to fleshly appetites; only of self!

- Idea seems to be that of man’s fallen nature as opposed to the new nature given by God; wisdom that gets its origin in man’s nature totally apart from the Spirit of God
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- Focus is on the here and now; on worldly things

**“Demonic”**: James traces the source of this earthly, false wisdom all the way back to Satan himself

- Satan is crafty and cunning...He has wisdom that will confound and confuse you if you do not know the wisdom of God.
- In Gen. 3, we see the serpent appealing to worldly wisdom to deceive Eve...”Did God really say?”

### **True Wisdom...“Wisdom from Above”**

- The true Christian does not look to the philosophies of this world.
  1. Jesus Christ is our wisdom. (1 Cor. 1: 24, 30)  
“are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:3)  
First step to attaining true wisdom....receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
  2. The B\_\_\_\_\_ is our wisdom.
    - Deut. 4: 5-6
    - 2 Tim 3:15
    - James 1:5
    - Eph 1: 17
  3. As we seek the Lord in p\_\_\_\_\_, we gain wisdom. (James 1: 1-5)  
Source of True Wisdom: God Himself.

## **II. The Evidence Coming from the Wisdom (vv.13-14, 7)**

### **False Wisdom....“Wisdom from Below”**

1. Bitter E\_\_\_\_\_ (v.14a): carries the idea of selfish ambition and zeal  
“Promote yourself”...carnal self-promotion and glorifying self
  - Do we rejoice when others succeed, or do we have secret envy and criticism?
  - Do we feel burdened when others fail, or are we glad?
2. Selfish A\_\_\_\_\_ (v.14b): “party spirit”
  - Word used by the Greeks to describe a politician out canvassing for votes
  - A spirit of self-seeking creates rivalry and division in the church
  - Philippians 2: 3- “do nothing out of selfish ambition but in humility..”
3. B\_\_\_\_\_ (v.14c)..Pride displayed through propping up self
4. Deceit (v.14d)

### **True Wisdom...“Wisdom from Above”**

- James gives a list of 8 characteristics of true wisdom.
  - The list sounds a lot like the “fruits of the Spirit” list in Galatians 5:22 or Jesus’ teaching on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5
1. P\_\_\_\_\_ : free from all things that characterize false wisdom; person of integrity and moral purity
  2. Peace: delights in and promotes peace; not one to create division and tension with others
  3. G\_\_\_\_\_ :not combative or abusive; reasonable and courteous; describes the person who endures all kinds of mistreatment and difficulty with patient humility without thoughts of hatred or revenge
  4. Willing to Yield: open to reason; doesn’t insist on rights or own way; submits to obey
  5. Mercy: compassion to those in need; concern for those who suffer pain and hardship
  6. Good fruits: rich in good deeds
  7. Decisiveness/Impartial: doesn’t show favoritism
  8. S\_\_\_\_\_ : doesn’t put on a front; Is what you see what you get? Or are you like a chameleon who changes depending on who you are around?

**QUESTION:** Are these traits evident in my life on a consistent basis?

### **III. The R\_\_\_\_\_ the Wisdom Leads To (vv.16,18)**

#### **False Wisdom....“Wisdom from Below”**

Worldly wisdom produces worldly results...T\_\_\_\_\_!

Wrong thinking produces wrong living. Our world is in a mess because men and women have refused to accept the wisdom of God.

#### **True Wisdom...“Wisdom from Above”**

**God’s wisdom produces B\_\_\_\_\_!**

- Produces a life of righteousness (v.18)
  - Right conduct coming out of your life
  - Right living in accordance to the will of God

