



James 3:13-18 Sowing A Harvest of Righteousness

August 16, 2015

Text: James 3:13-18

Wisdom defined simply is “the right application of **knowledge**.” James’ ultimate point in these verses is this: **If a believer walks in wisdom from above day to day, a “harvest of righteousness” is sown. A spiritual reaping of goodness and peace and mercy and selflessness will manifest, and God will be honored.**

Walking through the Text:

(James 3:13 ESV) Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

- This admonition is not surprising, since James had just declared “faith without works is dead.” James encourages believers over and over and over again to “be doers of the Word, not hearing only deceiving oneself.”

(James 3:14 ESV) But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

- These horrible traits find their root in **pride**: which is certainly opposite of “wisdom from above,” and is opposed to all that Christ is, and is unquestionably demonic.
- May I say that the wisdom we must walk in, if it is from above, is rooted in the Gospel? And may I add that the command to “put away” the evils of our flesh should be motivated by that same Gospel? ☺

(James 3:15 ESV) This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

- Notice as MacDonald writes in his commentary, the **downward** trajectory of this so-called wisdom: earthly-->not from the above, unspiritual-->of the flesh not the Spirit, demonic-->from below.

(James 3:16 ESV) For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

- Translation: where the flesh reigns and the demonic wisdom is allowed, circumstances (whether home, church, or nation) will manifest that ungodly fruit.

(James 3:17 ESV) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

- And precious ones, here is the key: **Seeking the Wisdom that comes from Above!!!**
- **Wisdom that comes from above is found in the Word of God. Your Bible is the surest place to find that wisdom, and when/if God speaks to you, He will always speak in alignment with Scripture.**

(James 3:18 ESV) And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- This is so wonderful. If and when the hearer decides to live life by the wisdom that comes from above, a harvest (or fruits) of righteousness is sown or **planted**.

Let it be so, Lord Jesus. For thy praise alone.