

Sunday, August 10, 2025

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: The Lord Gives Wisdom

Series: James...7 **Text:** James 3:13 - 18

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation that it is the Lord God Almighty who alone gives TRUE GODLY WISDOM.

Introduction:

The devotional last week was from James 3:1 – 12 and was entitled ‘Power Over the Tongue.’

~ 1. The Tongue Can Direct People; ~ 2. The Tongue Can Destroy; ~ 3. The Tongue Can Bless

~ Wisdom vs. Knowledge: “Knowledge and wisdom, while related, are distinct concepts. Knowledge is the awareness of facts, information, and skills, while wisdom is the ability to apply that knowledge with good judgment, understanding, and experience. Essentially, knowledge is knowing what, while wisdom is knowing how and when to use that knowledge.”

~ James 1:1 – 8

~ vs. 2, “Consider it all joy” is ATTITUDE; ~ vs. 3, “knowing that” is UNDERSTANDING of KNOWLEDGE; ~ vs. 4, “And let endurance” is SURRENDER (not resignation);

~ vs. 5, “let him ask of God” for WISDOM

~ Knowledge is acquired, wisdom of God if given! Trial produces request!

~ Proverbs 1:2, “To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight;” Proverbs 2:2, “making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining you heart to understanding,” vs. 6 – 7, “For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; (7) he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.”

1. Wisdom That Is Earthly (Worldly):

~ vs. 15, “This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly,…”

~ Earthly or worldly wisdom is based on a collective examination of preceived evidence and conclusions drawn from the data. The application of that information, at that time, is earthly or worldly wisdom.

Illustrations: ~ German Higher Criticism of the nineteenth century faded out in the twentieth Century

~ Harvard University established in 1636 to train clergy for the new commonwealth has largely abandoned its historical roots

~ Henry David Thoreau (July 12, 1817 – May 6, 1862) warned that we had improved means to unimproved ends.

~ 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 31

~ Romans 3:18, “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

~ 1 Corinthians 3:19, “For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,”

The archaeological find of the library at Ebla.

2. Wisdom That is Unspiritual (Natural of Fleshly):

~ vs. 15, “This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual,…”

~ Other translations of unspiritual: KJV, sensual; NASB, natural; BBE, flesh

~ 1 Corinthians 2:14, “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

~ John 14:17, “even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

~ Jude 1:19, “It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.”

3. Wisdom That is Demonic:

~ vs. 15, “This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.”

~ 2 Thessalonians 2:9 – 10, “The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, (10) and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”

~ 1 Timothy 4:1, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,”

~ Revelation 2:18 – 29

~ Consider Adam and Eve and Judas as two illustrations of demonic wisdom.

4. Wisdom That is From Above:

~ vs. 17, “But the wisdom from above is…”

~ Proverbs 2:6 – 7, “For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; (7) he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,”

~ James 1:2 – 8

~ trials test my application of knowledge – what God says

~ trails teach me to be steadfast – this in summary is Psalm 1:1 – 3

~ I need to ASK for wisdom

~ not doubting – one thing have I asked of the Lord; seek first His kingdom

~ believing – without faith it is impossible to please God, Hebrews 11

Conclusion: 1 Corinthians 1:30 – 31, “And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (31) so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.””