

"Get, Get, Get, Get the Wisdom That Comes From Heaven"

James 3:13-18

Pastor Bob Brandhagen

The Purpose (Why did God write this?): To describe the two kinds of wisdom, then to exhort and admonish God's people to practice the characteristics and evidences of the heavenly version.

*I. Your Good Life and Humble Deeds Show Your Godly Wisdom (3:13)*

Application: Strive for things good and humble if you want to prove you have godly wisdom.

Unfortunately, godly wisdom is not the only kind of wisdom in the world:

*II. Your Bitter Envy and Selfish Ambition Show Your Demonic Wisdom (3:14-16)*

Application: Flee from things bitter and selfish if you want to prove you do not have demonic wisdom.

There is True Wisdom in the white hat, Anti-Wisdom in the black hat; and there is a way to prove that you have the right kind of wisdom:

*III. Your Purity . . . & Sincerity Show Your Wisdom Comes From Heaven (3:17-18)*

Application: Pray for things pure and sincere in your life if you want to prove your wisdom comes from heaven, not hell.

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The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: We must live lives that show the characteristics and evidences of heavenly, not earthly/demonic wisdom.

The Big Story: Wisdom was at God's side at creation (Prov 8:30); wisdom is found in fearing God (Psa 111:10; Job 28:28); Jesus grew in wisdom (Luke 1:52); Jesus *is* wisdom (1 Cor 1:30); hidden treasures of wisdom are *in* Jesus (Col 2:3); God's wisdom is unsearchably deep (Rom 11:33); and, the Lamb is worthy to receive wisdom (Rev 5:12). So, make it your main thing to "get . . . get . . . get . . . get . . ." wisdom and understanding (Prov 4:5-7). And by the way, it won't be easy (Prov 2:1-6).

The Big Question: Being honest to God, does my wisdom come from Heaven (good life, humble deeds) or from Hell (bitter envy, selfish ambition)?

The Gospel: At the top of your bucket/prayer list, ask God to give you Wisdom, that is, Jesus. If you fear God and keep His commands (Ecclesiastes 12:13; Rom 1:5; Rom 16:26; 2 Thess 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17), believing (John 3:16), receiving (John 1:12), confessing (Romans 10:9-10), and following (Matt 4:19) Jesus, He will! Amen, Glory to God!

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