

## THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 7/24-25/2023 James Chapter 3

Classroom Location and Zoom – Sign In information, below at end of the notes;

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### OPENING PRAYER

**THIS WEEK: Taming the Tongue - (Jas 3:1-12); Heavenly Wisdom and Earthly (Demonic) Wisdom - (Jas 3:13-18).**

#### Review:

**Chapter One** – Profiting from Trials; Perspective of rich and poor; Loving God Under Trials: Qualities needed in trials; Be doers of the word and not hearers only!

**Chapter Two** – Beware of personal favoritism; Faith without works is dead!

**Chapter Three** – Warning to Teachers; The Untamable Tongue; Heavenly Versus Demonic Wisdom

#### Taming the Tongue

*Jas 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter (future) judgment.*

- **James is warning them, don't many become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.** God has a special ministry, called in the Bible as a pastor teacher. (*Eph 4:11*) *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.* As I stand before you as a teacher of the Word of God, I have a tremendous responsibility before God and before you. To teach as accurately as I can, what the Scripture says.
- **I'm not really here to offer my own opinion, though I often do that,** but in reality, I'm here to teach you what God's Word says. And where the Bible is silent, it's important that I am silent. Where the Bible speaks, it's important that I speak.
- **One day, I'll will have to stand before God, before our Lord Jesus Christ and the judgment seat of Christ.** There I will be judged under a more severe standard of judgment because of being a teacher. If I get into aberrant doctrine, if I get into false teaching and I stand as a respected teacher of God and yet I'm into false teaching, then I'm leading many people astray. That is why it is of vital importance, that I just teach the Word of God. And as we go through weekly on Monday nights and Tuesday mornings, putting the emphasis on trying to explain what God's Word is saying. It's really not important what I have to say. What is important is what God has to say. It is important to me that as the best that I can, to represent God and the Word of God properly to you.
- **Often people ask questions that call for a speculative answer.** In many passages of Scripture, there are people who have taken different positions that are almost opposite of each other of what the Scripture actually means. On some of these controversial issues, I don't want to take a rigid stand, but try to present various positions of the issue, letting you choose which one you like the best. I do take the responsibility of teaching the Word of God, very seriously. I seek before God to be an honest expositor of the Word of God as best I can and as best I know how.
- **One thing I request of you. Be a Berean, after every teaching,** from me and from any man. (*Act 17:10-11*) *Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. [11] These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*
- **James warns against just anybody getting up and teaching without recognizing the responsibility** that you have when you will stand before God to give an account of yourself. If you are guilty of teaching people falsely, you will have the greater condemnation!

**Jas 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect (spiritually mature, controlling his tongue) man, able also to bridle the whole body.**

- **James goes on now to talk about our speech, our tongue.** Paul said, (*Eph 6:6*) *not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.* If I seek to please all men, I am not a servant of Jesus Christ, who obviously did not please all men with His teaching. He taught without compromise, which stirred animosity against Him. It led Him to death on the cross, because He dared to speak the truth to the people, even when it cut and even when it hurt! As a teacher of the Word of God, we've got to be true to the Word of God, even when and if it cuts, so be it! But we've got to be true to the Word!
- **If anyone does not stumble in word.** In many things, he said, we offend all. People find the Word of God offensive at times, certain passages. They are offended by them. One time Jesus asked His disciples, are you offended by this? And at another time, His teaching was so severe that many of His disciples left Him. But yet there are things that are hard to say, but they must be said.
- **He is a perfect man.** That is, spiritually mature, able to control his own tongue! Have you ever said things that later you wish you had never said them? Or is that just me? Am I the only one that's ever felt that way? I wish I had never said that! Oh, if I could take it back, you know. But of course, once it crosses your lips, really it's out and you can't retrieve it. It's like squeezing too much toothpaste out of the tube and not being able to get the excess back in the tube!
- **Also able also to bridle the whole body.** No one is immune from sinning with his tongue. More likely, *perfect* describes those who are spiritually mature and thus able to control their tongues. You know, you've got things under control.

**Jas 3:3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.**

- **Now he speaks about the tongue, giving illustrations of how the tongue,** even though it is just a small part of the body, has the power to control one's whole person and influence everything in his life.
- **Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.** He uses the example of a bit that is put in a horse's mouth. By this small little bit, that you put in a horse's mouth, you can guide and direct that horse. It obeys you. With that small little bit, you can turn and guide the whole, large, body of that horse!

**Jas 3:4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.**

- **A very small rudder can turn a great ship!** Whenever used by the pilot, he can steer and control it wherever he wants it to go, accomplishing great and mighty things. Similarly the right management of our small tongue, can control the government of the whole man!

**Jas 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!**

- **Then he makes the application, Even so the tongue is a little member.** It's just a little member of your body, just a small little thing, *and boasts great things.* It boasts great things.
- **See how great a forest a little fire kindles!** What a great forest can be set afire by a little spark. How many fires has your little tongue sparked? Have you ever noticed how great an issue can be because what has been said? How it can blow up and explode, affecting so many people!
- **During World War II, one of the slogans** was, "a slip of the lip can sink a ship." The little tongue can do so much damage. It can bring so much pain. It can bring so much hurt. Conversely, the tongue can bring so much comfort! It can bring so much hope! It can bring assurance of love!
- **God has given us the tongue. You can use it to destroy or to build up,** to encourage, and to just help people by words of comfort, words of hope, words of love and words of encouragement and strength! Or you can use it to just cut them to pieces and destroy them.
- **The tongue is powerful! James is warning us about the power of the tongue.** It's such a little member, but it boasts such great things! It can kindle a fire that will destroy a forest.

**Jas 3:6** *And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity* (unrighteousness). *The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles* (pollutes, contaminates) *the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature* (circle of life); *and it is set on fire by hell.*

- **The tongue is a fire!** Like fire, the tongue's sinful words can spread destruction rapidly, or as its accompanying smoke, those words can permeate and ruin everything around it.
- **Devoted and given over to a destructive purpose,** James tells us that the *tongue* can be set on fire from hell, in its power to just destroy and devastate people. How many people have had their reputation destroyed because of someone's *tongue*? Their life has been made absolutely miserable because of what people were saying about them. And many times what is being said is not even true! But oh, the destructive power—the fire of hell! The tongue's evil can extend beyond the individual to affect everything in his sphere of influence.
- **To James, hell conjures up not just the place but the satanic host that will someday inherit it.** They use the *tongue* as a tool for evil.

**Jas 3:7** *For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.*

- **Oh how man can tame every kind of animal!** We've been to the circus. We've seen the huge elephants that are tamed and do their tricks. We've seen the lions that are tamed, the tigers. We've seen the tamed poodles doing their little tricks and all. It is amazing how a good trainer can train an animal to all of the interesting types of amazing feats.
- **Then birds, they can be trained to talk.** We have the stories of, have you heard of the parrot that spoke something. But birds can be trained to talk. Serpents, the snake charmers, training even serpents. Then of course, you go to Sea World. You see how they've trained the seals, the walruses. They've trained Shammu and his cohorts. And the marvelous things that they can train the sea creatures to do—their responses.
- **We can train all kinds of things. Things that you would never dream could be tamed.** And yet there is one thing that defies being tamed and that is the tongue!

**Jas 3:8** *But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

- **But no man can tame the tongue. Only God, by His power, can do this!** Thus he ends his exhortation concerning the *tongue*. We need to realize that the power of life and death is in the *tongue*. We can use our *tongue* to destroy or to build up. May God help us to use our *tongue* in a constructive way, to encourage, to strengthen, to comfort, to give hope!

**Jas 3:9** *With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude* (in God's image) *of God.*

- **It's the same tongue!** I can come to church, saying, oh, bless the Lord, all my soul, all that is within me, bless His holy name! Then, I can go out and I say, that so and so---Did you see what he did? I can curse someone with the same *tongue!* Blessings come forth and cursing.
- **It was traditional for Jews to add "blessed be He" to a mention of God's name.** (*Psa 68:19, 35*) *Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation! Selah. [35] O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places. The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be God!*
- **However, the tongue also wishes evil on people made in God's image.** This points out the hypocritical inconsistency of the tongue's activities.

**Jas 3:10** *Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.*

- **He asks the question, or he declares, Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.** My brothers! These things ought not to be this way! Something's wrong here!
- **So watch your tongue!** It is totally inconsistent that you would use your *tongue* to praise God and to bless God, and then use your *tongue* to curse your brother and to destroy him, your brother who was made in the likeness of God.

**Jas 3:11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?**

**Jas 3:12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.**

- **Three illustrations from nature demonstrate the sinfulness of cursing.** The genuine believer will not contradict his profession of faith by the regular use of unwholesome words.
- **So watch your tongue! It is inconsistent that you would use your tongue to praise God and to bless God, and you would use your tongue to curse your brother and to destroy him, your brother who was made in the likeness of God.**
- **Our mouth, our tongue, our speech should always be glorifying to God.** We shouldn't use one tongue when speaking at church and a different one elsewhere. Just like a natural spring of water, our mouths shouldn't send forth fresh... and bitter from the same opening.

### Wisdom from Above

**Jas 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness (gentleness) of wisdom.**

- **Now he moves on the subject of wisdom. Who is wise and understanding among you?** The true wisdom. There is a wisdom of the world that is not really wise. But the man who has true wisdom and true knowledge. There are always those who boast of their wisdom, those who boast of their knowledge.
- **But who is the one who has true wisdom and knowledge?** He said, **Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.** Let him demonstrate it or show it out of his manner of living. The true wise man, one endowed with knowledge, let him show it in his manner of life. The word, conduct, is a word that encompasses more than just what you say. It encompasses your whole life style.
- **Let's see it manifested in your life style and your works in the meekness of wisdom.** True wisdom has one of its characteristics of meekness. It doesn't boast! It doesn't parade itself!
- **The wise man, endowed with understanding, let it be manifested in the life of good works with meekness** (with gentleness). Those who do their good works in an arrogant, self-serving way, designed to bring attention to themselves, show they lack true wisdom. **(Mat 11:29) Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle (meek) and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Gal 5:22-23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness (meekness), self-control. Against such there is no law. (1Pe 3:15) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;**

### Wisdom From Below (vs. 14-16)

**Jas 3:14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.**

- **But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts,** (turmoil), **do not boast!** That's not really true wisdom. True wisdom doesn't lead to envying and strife. Bitter envy, think of undrinkable water! When combined with envy, it defines a harsh, resentful attitude toward others.
- **Self-seeking. Sometimes translated strife, referring to selfish ambition** that leads to antagonism and factionalism. The Greek word came to describe anyone who entered politics for selfish reasons, seeking to achieve his agenda at any cost, even if that meant trampling on others.
- **And lie against the truth.** Those that boast of their wisdom and knowledge, but that wisdom has led them to strife, leads them to jealousy and envy, that's not true wisdom at all! And you are living a lie.
- **What are the characteristics and qualities of this wisdom? What is it like and how does it act?** James here starts out with a dangerous duo of *bitter envy* and *self-seeking*.
- **Bitter Envy; Bitter: to be harsh, sharp,** also used back in verse 11, when referring to bitter springs. **Envy:** a greedy or prideful longing for something that belongs to another, resentment. To have *bitter envy* is to so desire something for yourself that it creates in you an attitude of resentfulness and hostility toward others.
- **Self-seeking is to go after what you want regardless of what you have to do,** to stop at nothing to gain what you want! To have *self-seeking* is to do your own thing and do it your own way. **(Rom 2:8) but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath.**

- **Notice that disobedience to the truth goes hand in hand with this *self-seeking*, and that both of these characteristics start in the heart.** This is always the starting point. (*Mat 15:19*) *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. The heart of the problem is always the problem of the heart!*
- **This leads to pride!** James indicates here that this kind of heart causes pride and this way of thinking gets us to lie against what we know is true. This is where this self-seeking will lead, to pride!
- **Boast: to exalt yourself against or in the face of another,** to rejoice over yourself. To take in pride! Does that sound familiar, boasting against what is true? **At the end of the day, truth is of really no concern to this type of wisdom.** You could show the facts and statistics, but the truth won't overcome their own self-deception.
- **This false wisdom would say.** "Seek first the kingdom of self and all these things shall be added to you." "If you seek to find your life you will find it and if you seek to lose your life you will lose it." "Only one life twill soon be past only what's done for self will last." But Jesus said, (*Mat 10:39*) *He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. (Mat 16:25) For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*
- **The result of this is totally disastrous!** This is the wisdom that rules over our crooked and perverse generation, if you look around, these are the characteristics of the wisdom of our world today.

***Jas 3:15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.***

- **This speaks of the wisdom from below!** For this wisdom does not come from God. It does not descend from above, *but it is earthly.* It is *sensual.* It is *demonic* or devilish. The wisdom of the world, Paul said, was foolishness with God. Man by his wisdom knew not God. So many people are following the wisdom of this world. But it is *earthly.* Listen to their *earthly* maxim—eat drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die! Just do it! Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think. Get, while the getting is good. That's not wisdom! That's folly! The wisdom that is of the world, *earthly wisdom,* it's *sensual.* It appeals to the *sensual* part of man's nature, to the jealousy, to the envy. And it's *demonic.* It's source is hell, the *tongue* that is set on fire by hell.
- **As James now gets into what this false wisdom is,** sharing with us its origin (where it comes from), its characteristics (how it acts), and also its result (what it produces). The where, how, & what of the wisdom from below.
- **The Origin - The wisdom that does not descend from above** which indicates to us that it ascends from below. It *doesn't descend from above* but rises from hell. It is man-made wisdom, originating from the evil one. It is false wisdom, which is really no wisdom at all. It is actually the antithesis, a counterfeit, of the true heavenly God given wisdom. Notice in verse 15 a threefold description of the origin of this so called "wisdom."
- **Earthly of the earth, in sharp distinction of being from heaven, often with a negative connotation,** worldly, to be earthbound. Simply having only this earthly life in view. This false wisdom acts with no thought of eternity, no thought of heaven. No thought of anything after death on this earth.
- **Sensual unspiritual, natural, pertaining to human nature which has been inherently sinful since the fall.** This, although called natural, is not a good thing. While you might like to see "all natural" on your fruit and vegetables, you won't want it on your wisdom. This wisdom is completely separate from that which is spiritual. This "wisdom" not only refuses to believe in the spiritual but can't even comprehend it if it wanted to. (*1Co 2:14*) *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*
- **Demonic, of the devil, describing not only the Devil himself but his evil hosts,** which are alongside. This wisdom has the devil's fingerprints all over it. He is its very designer. We see again and again that Satan is only a copier, creating a counterfeit. There is nothing original about him.
- **He always takes what God creates and perverts it with the promise of greater "freedom" only to take those who follow into greater captivity.** He takes what God designed as marriage and perverts it, but really, it's just a cheap imitation. He is anything but original. Soon, during the Great Tribulation, he will seek to rip off the concept of the Messiah and produce his own AntiChrist. This wisdom is a nothing good, just a cheap imitation, which Satan uses to blind the minds of the unbeliever. (2Co 4:4) whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. Some see a connection with this threefold description of this false wisdom's

**origin with the three enemies that every man faces: the world, the flesh, and the devil.** This wisdom seems to be the sum total of all that works against mankind.

***Jas 3:16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.***

- **The Result: The wisdom of the world will ultimately lead you to confusion.** And how confused our world is today! There is a tremendous penalty for deliberately destroying certain animals, say, an egg of a bald eagle, or a spotted owl. The government will and can imprison you and impose a heavy fine upon you if you are guilty of harming a particular endangered species. Just think of the confusion in putting more value on animals that we are on human beings! We are putting more value on an eagle's egg than we are on a human fetus, living inside of the mother's womb. But we are living in a world that is so confused, as far as true, and real values are concerned.
- **Where there is *envying and self-seeking*, there is *confusion*.** *Envy* and *strife (self-seeking)* that come from worldly wisdom, and there is every evil work.
- ***Confusion means upheaval, disturbance and disorder, rebellion, insurrection, instability*, a disorder that comes from instability. **Wherever there is this confusion, you can know that this false wisdom has been at work.** Why? *(1Co 14:33) For God is not the author of confusion but of peace. This wisdom is not from God. This same word is found in Luke* when Jesus described the atmosphere of the end times. *(Luk 21:9) But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately.* This confusion then sets the stage for every evil work, which comes from embracing this type of wisdom.**
- ***Every Evil Thing - Evil: immoral! Thing: work, event, business, matter* There is **NO END to the evil.****
- **God saw this to be true when the "wise men of the world" got together to build a tower.** *(Gen 11:5-6) But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. [6] And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. God foresaw the great evil that would come from this gathering and so He did something about it. We too, can be assured that one day God will bring an end to the confusion and evil in this world.*
- **This is our default wisdom in our fallen state.** This wisdom does not have to be taught as it is something every man inherits from sin. *(Pro 14:12) There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*

***Jas 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.***

- ***The Wisdom From Above.* James uses a helpful method of learning which is to compare and contrast. We have now seen where this false wisdom comes from, what it's like, and what it ultimately results in. Now we will see the complete opposite when it comes to what true wisdom is.**
- **The origin of the wisdom that is from above, heavenly wisdom, is from God who is the giver of true wisdom. He is the source. God alone is above, and this wisdom is His.** *(Pro 2:6) For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; This wisdom is not shared by any other.* The Scriptures tell us that God alone is wise. *(1Ti 1:17) Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (Jud 1:25) To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion, and power, Both now and forever. Amen.*
- **Paul tells us that it was Jesus who became for us this very wisdom of God.** *(1Co 1:30) But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. We see, Jesus is the epitome of wisdom. He does not just possess it, but is part of His very nature.*
- **The characteristics are first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. We find here 7 different characteristics.** We can notice some similarities between the characteristics of wisdom and the characteristics of love that are found in *1 Cor 13*. All 7 of these were perfectly displayed in the earthly life of Jesus. If we want to know what these look like, just look to Him!
- **1) But the wisdom that is from above is first pure,** First of all, it's *pure*, meaning faultless and innocent. **Pure was put first,** notice the particular order and progression here. First *pure*, then *peaceable*. There is a flow to this. **Purity is not just one characteristic on this list but is the key to them all.** When Jesus

spoke of what the people thought about Him, He said, (*Mat 11:19*) *The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children.*” They accused Jesus of being a sinner, yet His life didn’t show the fruit of that lifestyle. Jesus responds with a great statement: “*But wisdom is justified by her children.*” The children of this heavenly wisdom is first *pure*. Wisdom’s children are *pure*. This is the first and surest sign of wisdom.

- **2) Secondly, then peaceable, which is freedom from worry**, describing a state of wholeness. **We know that Jesus called those blessed who sought to be peacemakers**, that they would then be called the sons of God. It would be an identifying mark that they are a child of God. (*Rom 12:18*) *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.* And as we know this is not always possible, but this is the pursuit of the one who has wisdom. (*Heb 12:14*) *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:* It is by these first two (**purity & peace**) that
- **3) Then it is gentle, meaning considerate, patient, appropriate** This is very similar to that attitude of meekness we looked at earlier. Abraham Lincoln was once described as a man of “velvet steel.” (*Php 4:5*) *Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.*
- **4) Willing to yield; Reasonable, ready to obey.** This quality is to be open to reason, compliant without compromise. It is willing to listen, not being stubborn and harsh like that of worldly wisdom. It isn’t that you are a push over, but that you are yielded to what is good and from what is evil.
- **5) Full of Mercy and Good Fruits; Notice the “and,”** which indicates to us that these two are to be taken together. The whole statement expresses one idea that when you are full of mercy, then a life full good fruit follows. To be full of mercy is to be constantly controlled by compassion. **Biblical mercy** is compassion in action, looking to gain nothing in return. We have a wonderful illustration in Jesus’ parable of the good Samaritan. Worldly wisdom passes by on the other side because it is full of self-seeking, but the wisdom of God is *full of mercy and good fruits*, so it stops, it cares, it moves, and it’s willing to pay whatever cost is necessary. James then ends this list with two things, which heavenly wisdom is not! *Without partiality and without hypocrisy!*
- **6) Without partiality. Non-divisive, to be steady, “to operate under consistent principle.”** The main idea is similar to what James addressed in the beginning of James chapter 2, regarding showing partiality to others. It’s not to treat people differently based on outward appearance, class, race, or anything else.
- **7) Without hypocrisy - Sincere, genuine. Wisdom is not hypocritical.** It doesn’t act one way around some people and another around others. (*2Co 1:12*) *For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but \_and more abundantly toward you.*
- **Now these qualities and characteristics** are not listed for us to try really hard to do in our own strength, but rather for us to recognize what true wisdom looks like. These characteristics in your life will be a result of having received this wisdom from above.

**Jas 3:18** *Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

- **The NIV translated this a little differently. It is they who sow in peace, shall** The wisdom that is from above is peaceable. And if you sow peace—blessed are the peacemakers, Jesus said in (*Mat 5:9*) *Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.* They shall be called the children of God. If you sow peace, then you will reap the fruit of righteousness!
- **And so God, help us! We are either following the wisdom of the world, or** we are following the wisdom of God—the wisdom that comes from above. You don’t have to ask a person. You can see it in their lives--the fruit of the Spirit, or the works of the flesh. They are so contrasting that it is quite obvious to see a person who is mastered by their flesh, the wisdom of the world, or you see them with a person *who is mastered by the Spirit, following the wisdom that is from above.* Now, if you are really wise, you will say, I want to follow the Godly wisdom. If you are a fool, you’ll say, well, I’ll just go like the world, you know. But what you sow, you reap!
- **The Result: Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.** If the result of the demonic wisdom is confusion and every evil thing, then conversely, we see the result of true heavenly wisdom is peace and righteousness. The fruit or the result or the outcome of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- **Righteousness: It is only by this wisdom that right living before God can happen. Righteousness always follows true wisdom.** It is out of a life of true wisdom that righteousness and then peace can exist. Where there is righteousness, there will be peace. Where there is unrighteousness, there will be chaos.
- **Righteousness and peace always go together. (Isa 32:17) The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness, and assurance forever. We looked at this verse earlier** when we looked at the result of that worldly wisdom and we find that the opposite of peace is a war and confusion.
- **(1Co 14:3) For God is not the author of confusion but of peace. This is what God desires for our life! Ultimately, He gave us His righteousness that we might have peace! (Gal 6:7-8) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. [8] For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. When one sows to self-seeking, they reap confusion. When they sow to bitter envy, they reap every evil thing.**
- **Jesus will ultimately bring these two things to come to pass one day.** It will be His righteous reign that when one sows to the pure, peaceable, and so on wisdom of God, the inevitable reality is a harvest of righteousness and peace will usher in a time of peace. Oh how we wait for that day where His wisdom reigns over all the earth!
- **So, what do we do? What is our proper response to this?** How do we make sure that we are living according to the right wisdom? Where do we go to get this? Do we have to take a class or enroll in an online course in wisdom? No! The first step is to become a fool for Christ! The deception that this world brings is that someone can be wise outside of the submission to Jesus Christ as Lord. **It is the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom, which** is the first step. **(1Co 3:18-20) Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. [19] For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness;" [20] and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."**
- **You must become a fool in this world to receive this wisdom from God.** The world looks at the cross of Christ as foolishness and it is that cross that you must cling to! It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe! And that message is Christ crucified. To become a fool is to admit your need of Jesus Christ and it will be the wisest decision you have ever made.
- **Become a fool and cling to Christ, admitting, confessing** to Him your sinful foolishness and that you need Him as Savior. We must believe in the finished work of Jesus on the cross who came, who died, and who rose again! We are to call on the name of Jesus who alone is wise and you shall be saved.
- **For all who are believers, you have already become fools for Christ, this wisdom is already yours.** All you have to do is ask for it. **(James 1:5) If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and** \_ Liberally: generously and without reserve! No strings attached, no catch, no hidden fees, or taxes. Without reproach: with no criticism: Without insult or mocking. No guilt involved.
- **The only condition is that when we ask, we ask in faith without doubting.** We ask believing that He is not only Wisdom itself but that He will supply this wisdom to those that ask Him. Oh, how He desires for us to come to Him for this wisdom from above!
- **(James 1:17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.** It is at this, that should cause us to rejoice in praise and worship for the One who alone is wise! For the One who became wisdom for us who are in Him, Jesus Christ the Lord. To Him be all glory!

## SUMMARY:

- **Warning to Teachers - Taming the Tongue**
- **(Jas 3:1-12) My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. [2] For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. [3] Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. [4] Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. [5] Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! [6] And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. [7] For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. [8] But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full**



*of deadly poison. [9] With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. [10] Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. [11] Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? [12] Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.*

- **Two Wisdoms – Heavenly Wisdom (all good) from Above – Demonic Wisdom (all bad) from Below**
- **(Jas 3:13-18)** *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. [14] But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. [15] This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. [16] For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. [17] But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. [18] Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*
- **Lord, please give me Your wisdom. Please help me to control my tongue, praising You and speaking Your word! To speak about You, Jesus!**
- **I SPEAK JESUS!**

## **CLOSING SONG:**

**I SPEAK JESUS** *Here be Lions, Dustin Smith Darlene Zschech (4:00/4:04)*

*I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind  
'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence I speak Jesus  
I just want to speak the name of Jesus Till every dark addiction starts to break  
Declaring there is hope and there is freedom I speak Jesus  
'Cause Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life  
Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire  
I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over fear and all anxiety  
To every soul held captive by depression I speak Jesus  
Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life  
Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like the fire  
Shout Jesus from the mountains Jesus in the streets Jesus in the darkness over every enemy Jesus  
for my family I speak the holy name Jesus (2x)  
Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life Break every stronghold Shine  
through the shadows Burn like a fire I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and  
every mind 'Cause I know there is peace within His presence I speak Jesus*

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Read and study Chapter Four!**

## **CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:**

**Phil Twente [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) cell 714 425 9221 [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) - Audio & notes from previous studies**

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**  
**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**  
**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVOT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

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**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>**

**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**  
**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**  
**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

Join Zoom Meeting -

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**Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340**

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