

Title: Who is a Wise Man?
Text: James 3: 13-18
Date: August 29, 2010
Place: PA

James 3: 13: Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. 14: But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15: This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish. 16: For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.

This is the excess James says to put off:

James 1: 21: Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

James 3: 17: But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18: And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Wisdom God gives is:

Pure-- it is not of man, not earthly, carnal, or sensual, or devilish; God makes a pure heart within. We know that no good thing is in us and that every good and perfect gift is from God.

Then peaceable--Christ said the believer is a peacemaker. Christ has given us his peace--peace with God and peace with our brethren. The believer delights to cover the sins of our brethren, not uncover them, not unbridle our tongue upon them but to speak words of comfort.

Gentle and easy to be intreated--the opposite of the arrogant spirit, of the self-righteous spirit, that obstinate overbearing spirit. James said that our Father does not upbraid those who come to him--so it is with the believer in whom the Spirit of God abides.

Full of mercy and good fruits: those who have been shown mercy delight to show mercy, to visit and to help the helpless, to be a helper of one another's joy. The spirit within the believer is meek knowing that our fruit is of God, of Christ, of the Spirit.

Without partiality: not with respect of persons.

Without hypocrisy: it is not a show to be seen of men to gain favor with men; nor is it a show to gain favor with God.

THE RIGHTEOUS SEED

James 3: 18: And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

All this is a description of our Savior who is the perfection of Wisdom, the good and perfect gift that came down from above from the Father of lights. Christ is the Seed sown of the Father, the righteous Branch who

grew up a tender plant, a root out of dry ground. His was a life of peace. There was no guile in him. When he was reviled he reviled not again. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. In his faithfulness we behold the righteousness of God. He purged our sin and robed us in his righteousness. This peace was sown in peace and he made peace for us between his people and our God.

Isaiah 32:17: And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

This Seed was sown into our hearts, not by might nor by power, but by his Spirit, through the preaching of the gospel. The effect his righteousness has upon us, brethren, is quietness and assurance forever. Therefore true believers go forth sowing this peaceable fruit of righteousness in peace. Not as lord's over God's heritage but peacefully as we wait on our Husbandman to break up the fallow ground, to plant the Word in the hearts of sinners. By his grace, we sow in peace. And by his effectual grace making the word not return void, we make peace.

Proverbs 12:18: There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise *is* health....15:4: A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life: but perverseness therein *is* a breach in the spirit...25:11: A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver. 12: As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, *so is* a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.

AMEN!