

Whosoever Will 10-25-25

Good morning. Well, today we're going to look at the last half of chapter three. Last week we stepped on everybody's toes about the tongue. So today we're going to talk a little bit more about wisdom. We talked last week about how much the Jews loved wisdom, how much they revered it. Solomon was, of course, one of their greatest heroes because of the great amount of wisdom that he had. James here is speaking about godly wisdom. He's talking about the wisdom that we get from God, and he's talking about not only having it, but applying it, using it for our lives daily. How can we make our lives more what God wants to be when we know His wisdom? This wisdom doesn't come automatically. It doesn't just filter down into you, but it comes through study. And as you study, you see things in your life that possibly need to be changed. So you become obedient.

To God's word, so study the word, be obedient to the word, and then you will have godly wisdom. And that was what made Solomon so wise. Was not only did he have the wisdom, but he used it, and then of course he shared it. He wrote proverbs. In 1 Kings 3:9, the Bible talks about how he came to have that wisdom. He's praying to God. He has been chosen by his father to be the next king. He was not the one that was in line for it, but it was God's choice. That Solomon would follow David, he prays this prayer. He says, "And so give your servant an understanding heart to judge your people, to discern good and evil. For who is capable of judging this great people of yours?" So Solomon was extremely young when he was picked to be king when David died, and he's going before God begging for what to do. How do I go about doing this? I'm I'm ill equipped for it.

And I think it's real interesting. He says, "How to judge your people?" He understands that they were God's people; they were not His people. He was just the intermediary between them and God. That he was going to be judging the people, but he needed God's help to do it. So he asks very selflessly for wisdom, for knowledge, for experience to handle all of this. And God granted his request, and of course, granted it. And because of his selflessness, his Humility in his request, God gave him so much more wealth and power and influence. The world laughs at what we call spiritual wisdom. They think it's impractical. They think it's foolish. Why would anyone want to have God directing their lives? And so many times, when people resist salvation, that's one of the

main reasons why. It's so much that they are afraid they will have to give up if they surrender their life to God. If they let God.

Have His will and way in their lives. How much are they going to have to give up? What will it cost them? So they laugh at us. They think that we're foolish. But if we let God's wisdom direct our lives, what a difference it will make in us personally, and then the people we come in contact with, even here in our church. How much of a difference it would make when God is at work, when the Holy Spirit is guiding our lives, guiding our decisions, even guiding our speech, if you will. We can gather facts, we can weigh the issues, and then make decisions in the light of God's word of what God would have us to do. This last portion of James chapter three kind of breaks down into two categories as James addresses the subject of wisdom. To begin with, he talks about false wisdom, and then he talks about true wisdom. You know, the FBI always says that when they look at counterfeit money, they always look at the real thing.

In order to know what the fake thing looks like, and so that's what he's doing here. He's contrasting the real and the fake. The question that he poses here is: Do you want your tongue to speak true wisdom, which comes from above, or do would you rather have false wisdom, which comes below? We from below. We are saved by faith, and our words and our works should give evidence of it. People should be able to tell. That there is something different about us because we are God's children, and we are letting God direct our lives. The story begins in verse 13, and he says, "Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior, his deeds, in the gentleness of wisdom." What elegant words James is choosing here as he broaches this subject of wisdom. Wisdom, as defined in the Bible here, means experience.

And if you remember in the first part of chapter three, James was talking to the people that wanted to teach, and he was reminding them of two things: not everyone is called to teach, but also for those who are called to teach, there's a much higher calling. There is a much greater responsibility goes along with it. So he's kind of trying wisdom and knowledge and experience into this lesson about. You may not be the one qualified to teach. They were wanting to, but really were not ready to. It's not enough just to stand and speak. You have to first stand for something. You have to believe in what you're standing for, and you need to have something worthwhile to say. And this is where godly wisdom

comes in, as God inspires, as God speaks through you. Godly wisdom will help keep your tongue from evil.

Godly wisdom will guard your lips from guile, trickeries, selfish motives that we sometimes have. The next word he uses is understanding, and it's that ability to use your wisdom, to hear it, to understand it, and then to apply it—not just head knowledge, just you know it and you do nothing with it. This kind of wisdom works best through humility. It is just good everyday Christian behavior: treating others as you would like to be treated, service, doing those things that you can do to help somebody. There's somebody out there that probably only you can help. You've got some talent, some gift that they need, and to use that—that is the beginning of wisdom.

Gentleness, strength under control is the definition here. It's not bragging. It's not being superior and bragging about it. It is the opposite of that. It comes under the category of humility. But it's demonstrating your wisdom by kindness and good works, good deeds. There was a video that went viral just last week about a teenager out west that gave a homeless man his shoes right in the middle of the street. It was wisdom. It was kindness. It was good works. It was all of those things put together. And when they interviewed the young man and asked him why, he was like, "What else could I have done? I had no other choice. I had shoes. He didn't." So that is gentleness. That is understanding. That is wisdom at work. Verse fourteen. He says, "But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant."

And so lie against the truth. In verse 13, he uses beautiful, elegant words to describe wisdom. And now he gets down to the nitty-gritty of it: bitter jealousy and selfish ambition. Bitter jealousy literally means sharp resentment. It means envy. The Bible might even call it covetousness, if you will. It's a state of mind that merely goes beyond wanting what somebody else has. It's driven, Possibly by anger, it is something that is overwhelming. You can't get away from it. You have to have this thing. Your life will never be complete unless you have it. It involves anger. It can bring division. It can bring broken relationships. It is the exact opposite of this true wisdom from God that James has been talking about. And of course, as with all things, this bitter jealousy can lead.

To harsh words, to poisonous words, words that cannot be taken back, words that you wish could be unsaid, and of course they never can be. Then he talks about selfish ambition. One writer

describes it as relentless pride. It is driven. You are forced into it. You cannot break yourself from the habit. It's promotion of self. Its gain of status, of position, of power, of being somebody, and you put all else aside in order to get that. It often comes at the expense of others. It often comes at the expense of relationships. It often comes through manipulating others to get what you want.

You put others down to exalt self. You imply that they are not as good as you are. You have talents, you have abilities; they do not. In James's day, this word "selfish ambition" was actually used to describe a gladiator standing over a defeated foe—the absolute ultimate humiliation of that foe, as the gladiator stands over him, most likely planning to kill him. And James says the result of all of this that you will lie against the truth. It means to to act, to speak, to live in a way that is totally opposite to God's standard. God's standard is truth and grace, and this pride. This self gain. This all of those things. Envy, the exact opposite of truth and grace.

Verse 15, he kind of talks about the sources of this wisdom. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but it is earthly, it is natural, and it is demonic. So he says earlier, there are two sources of wisdom. True wisdom comes from God above. False wisdom comes from Satan below. It False wisdom is the wisdom that mankind makes up. Mankind decides what is right and what is wrong. Mankind decides what is false and what is true, and it's nothing new. It's gone on since the beginning of time. Consider the Tower of Babel back in Genesis chapter eleven. Do you remember what the people said in Babel as they began building this tower? The purpose behind it, so that we can reach up to God, that we can be up where God is. Abraham.

When he was in Egypt, and Sarah, a very beautiful woman, was about to be taken by the king of Egypt, he lied and said that she was his sister. And he did this to save his own skin. What about David facing Goliath? If you remember, when David came out, he was probably 15, 16 year old boy, very small in stature, and Saul just could not believe that David would be able to kill this giant that had terrorized the, Jewish people for forty days and forty nights. So Saul put his armor on him, and of course, remember, David is a tiny little guy, and Saul was over six feet tall. And so you can imagine what David looked like in Saul's armor. Very quickly, threw it off like, I can't depend on this. I can't use your armor for my protection. What about the disciples? You remember when they

dismissed the crowd? They told him Jesus was busy. He had finished preaching.

You're hungry. Go home. Find your own food. It's not our problem. All of these are examples of false wisdom. All of these are thinking like the world. Having knowledge and having wisdom are not the same thing. You can have a whole lot of knowledge and very little, if any, wisdom. You might be able to unlock the secrets of the universe with your worldly wisdom, but that's just knowledge. That's just knowing how to do something. That has nothing to do with wisdom, it has nothing to do with doing the wise and the right thing. In John chapter eight verse forty-four, Jesus was having a conversation with the scribes and the Pharisees about this very same thing. He says to them, "This: You are of your father the devil. You want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth."

Because there is no truth in him. Whenever he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies. And you know the scribes and Pharisees have been trying to kill Jesus all along, and that's what Jesus accuses him of here. That Satan was a murderer from the beginning, the first murder in the Bible, instituted by Satan when he put evil in Cain's heart. So, the scribes and Pharisees were guilty of this thing of a lot of head knowledge, but virtually no wisdom, particularly godly wisdom. And remember, they were experts in the scriptures. They knew the scriptures forwards and backwards. They wore them on their wrists and on their forehead, but they did not understand it. They did not practice it. They did not use it as God would have intended for them to do. It was all head knowledge, no heart knowledge, no wisdom.

Verse sixteen, he says, "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. Where these things exist, he says, there is utter chaos and confusion. Where all of this jealousy, where all of this self ambition, where all of this lying is, he says. And just look at the scribes, the Pharisees. They were miserable. They were constantly trying to outdo each other. They were so concerned." About their jobs and their status, and that was one of the reasons that they were trying to kill Jesus because he was the opposite of them. And the people were flocking to Jesus in great numbers, and leaving them, they were losing their position, they were losing their status. The political leaders, Pilate and Herod, were so concerned that they were going to lose their jobs if

they didn't get this Jesus thing under control that Rome was going to come down and investigate what was going on, and they would be out of jobs.

So it was all selfish ambition that ruled their lives. No godly wisdom at all, and even the disciples were guilty of it from time to time. Famous story in Matthew chapter twenty: the mother of James and John, the sons of thunder, came to Jesus seeking a position of status for her little boys when they all got to heaven. In her eyesight, they were exceptional. They deserved the places of honor in heaven, and. What was the result? The Bible says, "When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers." This is Matthew twenty two. They were indignant. The word means angered. It means annoyed. It means resentful. And of course, they were angered and annoyed and resentful because they hadn't thought to go ask for the places of position. They hadn't thought to send their mommies to Jesus begging a favor. So of course, they were indignant that.

That James and John's mother did it, and maybe they put her up to it. The other words that he uses here are disorder, again a result of human wisdom, using human wisdom instead of godly wisdom. The last thing he says here is an evil thing. It involves confusion, it involves corruption, self-promotion, a selfish agenda, covetousness. Anything that you want to call it, it all has to do with pride and promoting of self. It is an evil thing. The word literally means every worthless thing. Maybe not totally evil within itself, but it's just not good for anything. It doesn't help anybody. It doesn't promote anybody. It doesn't lift anybody up. So it is a worthless thing.

The word that the Bible uses here is antipeto, and it means to resist or to pull. It pictures a dog pulling on the master's leash. The dog wants to go one way, the master wants to go another, and something you see almost every day when someone is out walking their dog. But did you ever stop to think? Do you ever antipeto God? Do you ever pull against God's leash? On your life, God is pulling you in one direction, and you're pulling in the other direction. I think, truth be known, we all do that a lot more than we would admit. That we're constantly pulling on the master's leash to get our own way. Again, it never ends well. It ends with confusion, corruption, self-promotion, all of these things that are evil. Verse 17. But the wisdom from above is pure.

It is peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, and without hypocrisy. Again, beautiful words that James uses here to describe true godly wisdom. Twenty-one words that are used here in verse seventeen, and they are basically a sermon within a sermon. The first word he uses is pure. It is a commitment to love what God loves, to love as God loves, to hate what God hates, to remove those things in your life that are despicable to God. He says, "Peaceable." It is a desire to mend things; is what the word actually means—to heal unnecessary divisions, to heal broken relationships.

Peace with all men, whenever possible, is a word that the Bible uses. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." What about gentle? Living free of heavy-handedness, of wanting to be in control of every situation, wanting to coerce, to manipulate every situation, to have things your way. Reasonable. This is the only time that this word appears in the Bible. It basically means being open to considering other alternatives, considering something that might be more worthwhile, more valuable than the thing you're doing or the direction in which you're going. To stop, to look at a situation, to look at it from a different perspective, to get someone else's perspective on it, to get a second opinion, to choose a better option. Then he talks about.

Mercy. Mercy always involves compassion. It always involves forgiveness. It is a desire to help people, particularly those that you see that are hurting or that are struggling, to help them along the way. And it also involves this idea of looking at their situation without judging them, without this idea of well, you deserve it. Look what you did. Show mercy, and you shall receive mercy, is what Jesus said. And remember, Jesus talked so many times about mercy and grace and forgiveness that these were the cornerstones of his ministry. And look how many hurting and struggling people that he helped through the years. So, mercy is a great benefit for believers. He says, "Good fruit, fruit that only the Holy Spirit can provide."

The word actually means a full sponge that, when you squeeze it, something will come out of it. So something good will come out of you when you are squeezed. When you're backed into a corner, something good will happen. Something good will come of it. He says, unwavering. The idea is to be impartial. Do not show favoritism. No bias. No hypocrisy. No thinking yourself better than someone else. It has this idea of treating all people fairly and

equally. Don't judge people by their looks, by their wealth, by their status, by their background. Be fair in all things. Judge them on the fact that they are one of God's children. All men were created equal. It's what our Constitution tells us. We talked several weeks ago about the author that said our problem is that we judge people based on face.

Place and race—that these are our three most important categories—that we look at them, we look at who they are, where they are, what they do, what they look like, what they smell like. All of these things, we should be unwavering. We should be impartial. None of these things have a place in the Christian life. The last thing he talks about is hypocrisy. It kind of means harmony when everything is going along smoothly, when everything is going well. The idea is harmony between what you believe and how you behave. That what you believe, what you speak, is a visible thing. It is seen in your life that you demonstrate these attributes. Literally, it means not to wear a mask, not to say one thing and do another, say one thing and mean another.

Do you remember when Nathaniel came into the life of Jesus and the disciples? Jesus saw him coming and says, "He is a man without guile. What you see is what you get." Warren Wiersbe says that hypocrisy that got to be guileless is a person of integrity who has nothing to hide, and because they have nothing to hide, they have nothing to fear. And in many of these things, they are things that Jesus talked about in his life on earth, in his ministry. Blessed are the peacemakers, and those who show mercy shall receive mercy. Came out of the Sermon on the Mount, probably the greatest textbook on Christian living ever written. So, not only are they things that we believe, but they are things that Jesus actually spoke in his earthly ministry. A few years after James wrote, Paul wrote a letter.

To the church at Galatia, and he was talking to them about these very same things. These, these wonderful words of life, if you will. Paul said this to the Galatians. But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. So James and, Paul were in perfect agreement here about the things that bring wisdom, that bring peace, that bring harmony, that can heal broken relationships. That they all are gifts of the Spirit. Verse eighteen, he talks about seed and fruit. He says, "And the seed whose fruit is

righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”
James.

Closes this chapter really with what we would call a proverb. Remember, in many ways, James is the book of wisdom, the book of proverbs of the New Testament. And like Jesus, he chose a familiar subject. He chose an agricultural example: seed and fruit. Seed represents a life lived in a manner of peace, and it will produce a harvest, a fruit, good fruit, worthwhile fruit. Fruit that will benefit others. Root. Every seed has to have a root. It cannot grow without a root. And James is saying here that the roots of this are peace and harmony. That when you have peace and harmony, great fruit, good fruit, beneficial fruit will result. He uses the word fruit here, and what he's implying is a visible crop, evidence of our salvation.

That our lives will show the things that we talk about, the things that we say that we believe, that we will put those things to work. We'll put feats to our prayers, if you will. That you can see the evidence of our salvation in our lives. That we lives of righteousness. We lives of a high moral standard that's pleasing to God. And the disciple Peter was a perfect example of this. He was a perfect Example of what God can do with someone who surrenders their life to Jesus. The question was asked by Jesus one day about, you know, people say I am. You're out there in the crowd. You're listening to what the people are saying. What are they saying about me? And Peter answered and said, you know, they say this, they say that, but I say you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. This is Matthew 16:16.

Greatest profession of faith, probably in the entire Bible, probably the greatest thing that Peter ever uttered in his life, because he was famous for opening his mouth before putting his brain in gear. But as a result of this profession, Jesus gives Peter a new name. He went from Simon Barjona, the son of Mr. Johnson, to being Petra, Peter, the Rock. And with faith like his, God was going to build a church. He was promised great power. He was promised great authority, and indeed, he preached and ministered all of his life, doing great things for God. But in Matthew chapter 16, as soon as he makes this great profession of faith, soon as Jesus gives him a new name, Jesus begins to talk about the crucifixion, and Peter immediately jumps up and says, “You're not going to die on my watch.”

That everything that Jesus was saying was God's will for His life. Peter was saying, "Oh no, it's not. We're not going to let that happen. Not on my watch." Even on the morning of the crucifixion, Peter denied Jesus three times. And mercifully, a few days later, Jesus reconciled with him. But Peter was a great example of a man who could have both ways. He could be great. He could profess great faith. He could preach great sermons. But then he had great moments of human frailty too, where he Denied Jesus, or he argued with Jesus about God's will. So, a perfect example, though, of how we as Christians sometimes behave. And in the latter part of Matthew chapter 16, Jesus pointed out Peter's problem to him. He says, "You are not setting your mind on God's interest, but man's. You want it your way, not God's way." But Peter grew; he matured through the years.

Especially with the coming of the Holy Spirit, preached as I said before, the greatest sermon in history, probably. For the next 35 years after the Day of Pentecost, Peter traveled. He preached in many, many different places. The estimates are made that, based on the places that Peter went, that he traveled approximately 2,500 miles during that 35 years of ministry. The Bible records that he traveled from Galilee. To Jerusalem, to Samaria, he traveled to Judea. He traveled to Syria. Ultimately, he crossed the Mediterranean Sea and went to Rome, where he was ultimately martyred. So, all of these places that Peter went—does that does that sound familiar to you at all? Acts chapter one, verse eight. Jesus says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you."

And you shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth. And where did Peter go? Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and Rome was literally the end of the world as they knew it in that day. So Jesus predicted it would happen, and Paul, Peter carried out that prediction. A life well lived, a wife. Life wisely lived, a life that produced visible fruits. In talking about James chapter three, Harry Ironside says this: When the tongue is surrendered to Christ and dominated by the Spirit, it becomes our most useful member. But when the tongue falls under the control of the enemy, Satan, it works untold grief and damage.

So basically, the choice is ours. Will it be godly wisdom or will it be the wisdom of Satan, the wisdom from the pits of hell? If we choose God's wisdom, it will be good. If we choose Satan's

wisdom, it brings untold grief and damage. Our lives as Christians are the result of progressions. We grow, we mature, and the same is true with the story of God and mankind. God planted a tree. In the Garden of Eden, he planted a seed. It ultimately became a tree, and that tree became the old rugged cross. And because of that cross, he was able to transplant the tree of life from the Garden of Eden to the New Jerusalem. And because the tree in the garden in Genesis, or through the tree in the garden in Genesis, sin entered the world. But that tree reappears in the Book of Revelation.

And it talks about how man is fully restored, fully brought back to a relationship with God, because of the sin that happened in the garden, and in mankind's restoration became because of the of the tree that grew to be the old rugged cross. You got a couple of handouts. You've got one that talks about trees and roots, just like we talked about before. Good roots, good fruit. Bad roots, bad fruit. Which one are you going to choose? And you have all of the choices listed for you there. Well, we're doing America 250, and trying to do a lot of them about people named James. And today we're going to do. His name was James Madison. He was the fourth president of the United States. He was elected in 1809. After the U.S. Constitution was adopted, many people became concerned.

That it outlined the powers of the federal government, but it did not address the rights of the citizens. So, in 1791, Madison introduced what he called the Bill of Rights to the first U.S. Congress, and it eventually became the first ten amendments to this new Constitution. One of the rights that he outlined was to assure the citizens' freedom of religion, and it states, "Congress shall make no law." Respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and even today, freedom of religion is hotly debated in our society. Today, in the courts and in our culture, the interpretation of this amendment seeks to build an impassable wall of separation between church and state. Many seek to prevent religion from entering into our government, into our public schools, and into numerous other sections.

Of society, our freedom to worship as we are led still lies in the balance. The Bible says this. So if the sun sets you free, you really will be free. John eight, thirty six. And interestingly enough, in well, how many days it is till the election? You know there are a couple of amendments coming up in the in the election. And they both—

they have to do with school prayer. They have to do with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. They have to do with singing the first stanza of the national anthem. These very things that Madison was concerned about here are coming around again, and we're going to have a chance to vote on them when it comes up in a few days. Let's pray before we go, and pray that God will guide our steps this week. He'll send us where we need to go into those hurting people, those people that need maybe even just a kind word.

Father, thank you for the day. Thank you for this word you've given us, Lord. Thank you for its wisdom, for its interpretation, Lord. Thank you that we live in a country where we are free to study your word, Lord, without fear. Help our words to be pleasing to you this week as we go. That they would be wise words. That they would be words from you, not words from the pit of hell, not words that are divisive, but words that are healing and mending. Bless us now. We ask it all joyfully in your name. Amen.

James chapter three
Verses 13-18
Wise or otherwise

We talked earlier about the Jews great love of wisdom
They revered Solomon for the amount of it he had
James is speaking of godly wisdom for daily practical living
The kind that comes thru study of and obedience to God's Word
And that is what made Solomon so wise

I Kings 3:9

So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your
people, to discern between good and evil. For who is capable of
judging this great people of Yours?"

And because he asked selflessly, God granted His request and so
much more

The world laughs at "spiritual" wisdom
They think it impractical and foolish
Why would anyone want God to direct their lives?
Think how different our lives would be

If we let God's wisdom direct our lives personally and at Church
If we let the Holy Spirit guide us
As we gather facts and weigh issues in light of God's Word

In the latter part of chapter three, James divides wisdom into
two categories

False wisdom (vss 14-16)

And true wisdom (Vss 17-18)

Do you want your tongue to speak true wisdom from above
Or
False wisdom below ?

We are saved by faith
And our words and works should give evidence of that salvation

13) Who among you is wise and UNDERSTANDING? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the GENTLENESS of WISDOM.

WISDOM means "experience"

Remember, James is still speaking to those who may want to teach

But are not yet ready

It is not enough to just stand and speak

You must first stand FOR something

And have something worthwhile TO say

This type of godly wisdom

Will keep the tongue from evil

And the lips from guile (trickery or selfish motives)

UNDERSTANDING

The ability to use wisdom

Not just head knowledge

Showing wisdom through humble, everyday

Christian behavior

GENTLENESS

Strength under control

Not by bragging about your superiority

But demonstrating your wisdom by kindness
and good works

- 14) But if you have BITTER JEALOUSY and SELFISH
AMBITION in your heart, do not be arrogant
and so LIE AGAINST THE TRUTH**

BITTER JEALOUSY

Literally “sharp resentment” or “envy”

It is a state of mind that goes beyond

Merely wanting what someone else has

It is a competitive drive

It harbors anger, breeds division, and opposes
God's true wisdom

Leads to poisoned words

SELFISH AMBITION

Relentless pride

A drive to promote self, gain status, secure power

Often at the expense of others and by manipulation

Put others down to exalt self

In James' day it pictured a gladiator standing
over a defeated foe

The ultimate humiliation

LIE AGAINST THE TRUTH

To act, speak, or live in a way

That contradicts God's standard of truth and
grace

**15) This wisdom is not that which comes down from above,
but it is earthly, natural, demonic**

There are two sources of wisdom

True wisdom comes down from God above

False wisdom comes from Satan below

It is the wisdom that mankind makes up

Tower of Babel in Genesis 11

“Let us go up to God”

Abraham lying to Pharaoh in Egypt

To save his own skin

David facing Goliath in Saul’s armor

Depending on someone else’s protection

Disciples dismissing the hungry crowd

Go find your own food – it’s not our problem

Knowledge and wisdom are not the same thing

You can have much knowledge

But very little wisdom

You might be able to unlock the secrets of the
universe

But then what would you do with that
knowledge ?

In John 8:44 Jesus talked to the Scribes and Pharisees about this
very thing :

You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires
of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and
does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him.

Whenever he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature,
because he is a liar and the father of lies.

16) For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every EVIL THING

Where these things exist there is utter chaos and confusion
Just look at the Scribes and Pharisees

They were so concerned about their jobs and
status

They could see no alternative but to kill Jesus
Even the disciples

In Matthew 20 the mother of James and John
Came to Jesus seeking status for her little boys
They were exceptional in her sight and
deserved it

The result ?

When the ten heard about this, they were
INDIGNANT with the two brothers.

Matthew 20:24

INDIGNANT

Angry, annoyed, resentful

Mainly because they didn't think of it first

DISORDER

The result of using human wisdom instead of Godly
wisdom

EVIL THING

Confusion, corruption, self-promotion, selfish
agenda, covetousness

Literally "every worthless thing"

Perhaps not actually evil, but simply good for
nothing

The Bible uses a Greek word "antipipto"

It means to resist or pull

It pictures a dog pulling against the master's leash
The dog wants to go one way – the master is leading in another
way

Do you ever "antipipto" God's leash on your life ?

The result is confusion, corruption, self-promotion, selfish
agenda, covetousness
Which according to this verse is “an evil thing”

- 17) **But the wisdom from above is first PURE, then
PEACEABLE, GENTLE, REASONABLE, full of
MERCY and GOOD FRUITS, UNWAVERING,
without HYPOCRISY**

A whole sermon series in 21 words

PURE

A commitment to love what God loves
And to hate what God hates

PEACEABLE

The desire to heal all unnecessary divisions
Peace with all men whenever possible
Blessed are the peacemakers

GENTLE

Living free of heavy-handed con troll and
coercion

No manipulation

REASONABLE

The only time in the Bible that thIs word is
used

Open to considering the value of other
alternatives

Stop and look thru a different perspective
Seek a better option

MERCY

Compassion and forgiveness,
A desire to help people who are hurting or
struggling
But without judging them.

Those who show mercy shall receive mercy

GOOD FRUIT

Fruit that only the Holy Spirit can produce

A full sponge – only goodness comes out when squeezed

UNWAVERING

Impartial

Showing no favoritism, bias, or hypocrisy

Treating all people fairly and equally

Don't judge people by looks, wealth, status, or background

Being fair in all things

HYPOCRISY

Harmony between your beliefs and your behavior

Literally – “not to wear a mask”

Like when Jesus introduced Nathaniel as a man without guile

What you see is what you get

Warren Wiersbe says “a person of integrity has nothing to hide and no fear”

A few years after James wrote, Paul echoed this same sentiment when writing to the Church at Galatia:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

18) And the SEED whose FRUIT is righteousness is sown in PEACE by those who make peace.

James closes with a proverb

Remember, we said James is the New Testament
Book of Wisdom

Like Jesus, he used a familiar subject – agriculture

SEED

Represents a life lived in a manner of
peace

It will produce a harvest of fruit

ROOT

Every seed must have roots

Here the roots are PEACE and harmony

FRUIT

The word used means a visible crop

Evidence of our salvation

The result is a life of righteousness and
high moral standards

The Disciple Peter is a perfect example
Of what God can do with a life surrendered to His will

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the
living God.”

Matthew 16:16

Peter makes the greatest confession of faith of his life

Jesus gives him a new name

Promises him great power and authority as he preached and
ministered

In the very next breath, he argues with Jesus

That he will not allow Jesus to die on his watch

On the morning of the Crucifixion he denied knowing Jesus
three times

A few days later he and Jesus reconciled over breakfast

Jesus pinpointed Peter's problem:
"You are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."
Matthew

16:23b

But, Peter grew and matured, especially with the coming of the
Holy Spirit

Preached one of the greatest sermons in history on the Day of
Pentecost

Peter travelled and preached for the next 35 years

It is estimated he travelled some 2500 miles

His travels expanded from Galilee and Jerusalem through
Samaria and coastal Judea, up to Antioch in Syria, and
ultimately across the Mediterranean Sea to Rome, where he was
martyred.

Does any of that sound familiar ?

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come
upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and
in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the
earth."
Acts 1:8

A life well and wisely lived that produced visible fruit

Harry Ironsides summed up James Three:
"When the tongue is surrendered to Christ and dominated by the
Spirit

It becomes our most useful member.

But when the tongue falls under the control of the enemy,
It works untold grief and damage

OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS ARE THE RESULT OF GODLY
PROGRESSIONS

God planted a tree in the Garden of Eden

God planted a seed
That became a tree
That became an Old Rugged Cross

And because of that Cross
He transplanted the Tree of Life from the Garden of Eden to the
New Jerusalem

Because of the Tree in the Garden in Genesis, sin entered the
world

The Tree reappears in Revelation
Indicating full restoration of what was lost due to sin in the
Garden