

James 3:13-18

“*Prove It*”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 3:13-18)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Prove It”**

~ INTRO ~

THIS MORNING... WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY IN JAMES ...

- By exploring practical Christian living...
 - At the *Crossroads of Culture*.

LISTEN... THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE...

- Who name drop Jesus...
 - But their lives don't reflect that they actually know Jesus!
- The reflection looks more like culture than Christ.

SO... JAMES...

- Highlights what *Genuine Faith* looks like...
 - Thru practical daily living!

REMEMBER...

- We've seen **six-ways to identify genuine FAITH** so far:

- 1) Response to trials (James 1:2-8)
- 2) Compliance to God's mission (James 1:22-25)
- 3) Worship that works (James 1:26-27)
- 4) Affections that are fair (James 2:1-13) avoiding sinful partiality!
- 5) Faith that bears fruit (James 2:14-20)
- 6) Talk that has been transformed (James 3:1-12)

NOW TODAY...

- We close out chapter #3...
 - Where James says, **“prove it!”**

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- What kind of wisdom are you living out?
 - Is it from the Lord (OR) is it from culture?

I THINK MANY TIMES...

- Well-meaning Christians can get confused about this.
 - That’s why this portion of (James) is so important.

OK...

HERE’S WHAT THE TEXT SAYS:

- Read (vv.13-18) NLT

HERE’S WHAT WE’RE TO UNDERSTAND:

- a) **Wisdom from God**... looks like this (v.13) NLT:
 - i. **Honorable living** = Not pretending & hiding behind a facade.
 - ii. **Good works** = Habits & practices with a lasting value.
 - iii. **Humility** =
- b) **Wisdom from the world**... looks like this (v.15) NLT:
 - i. **Earthly** = Practices that only have a temporary value.
 - ii. **Sensual** (gratification of senses over moral standards) = the flesh.
 - iii. **Demonic** = Spiritually influenced by a force in opposition to God.

HERE’S THREE WAYS WE CAN APPLY IT:

IDEA #1 – WISDOM FOR SELF-EVALUATION:

TURN TO (Proverbs 26:13-28) NLT

- a) **Are you being spiritually lazy?** (vv.13-16)
 - i. Excuses (v.13)
 - ii. Lacking faith (v.14)
 - iii. Wasting resources (v.15)
 - iv. Avoiding common sense (v.16)

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- b) Are you being spiritually foolish? (vv.17-28)
 - i. Complicating things (v.17)
 - ii. Damaging words - LIES (vv.18-19)
 - iii. Discourse of doubt - GOSSIP (vv.20-22)
 - iv.

REMEMBER...

- James says (3:13) that we are to “*prove*” or faith...
 - By the way we live our lives!

IDEA #2 – WISDOM FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERS:

NOW...

- Capture this also from (v.13) NKJV
 - “*understanding*” OR “*understand God’s ways*”
- This is the only time in the NT this Greek word is used...
 - And it speaks to skillfully applying God’s word...
 - To practical situations.

LESSON’S FOR LEADING:

(Proverbs 27:23) NLT

- a) Discover the flocks condition (John 21:15-17) NKJV
- b) Detect / restore the sick ones – those faltering in the faith (Gal. 6:1) NLT
- c) Deter danger (John 10:12) NLT *attack & scatter*

IDEA #3 – WISDOM FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH:

(James 3:17-18) NLT

- The power & flavor of God’s wisdom...
 - Shows up in how we transfer our faith to others.

IN THE CHURCH...

- God has given social interactions...
 - As the method of pouring into others.

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TURN TO (Titus 2:1-8) NLT

- a) MEN are to be known for being... (v.2) & (v.6) NLT
- i. Self-controlled
 - ii. Respectable
 - iii. Full of wisdom

IT IS ASSUMED...

- That the MAN will develop his wife as taught in (Eph. 5:29) NLT
 - That he will bring her to maturity by pouring into her.

THEREFORE...

- b) WOMEN are to be known for... (vv.3-5) NLT
- i. Personal godly living – foots steps of faith (Prov. 31:10-31) KJV
 - Faithful
 - Hard working
 - Good attitude
 - ii. Training younger women...
 - To love husband by becoming a willing mutual participant.
 - To live wisely (self-controlled / respectable / full of wisdom)
 - To work in their homes (this is not dusting & cleaning)
 - Shopping / exercising / business owner / educated...
 - Priorities: Husband, kids, home

*There’s a lot to add to develop under this topic...

HOWEVER,

- May we all recognize that the point of (James)...
 - Is magnifying the DIFFERENCE...
 - Between the wisdom of the world...
 - And the wisdom of those who live by FAITH!

~ IN CLOSING ~

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WE'RE GOING TO TAKE COMMUNION THIS MORNING.

BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE...

- You're understanding how God...
 - Is giving us His grace this morning.

THIS STUDY REFLECTS...

- Practical Christian living in a culture that disregards Christ!
 - And the invite is to personal growth in Jesus.

SO...

- If you're living too close to the edge today...
 - And you know there's somethings to get right.
 - Raise up your hand so I can pray for you!

~ COMMUNION ~

~ LET'S PRAY ~