

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for October 16-17, 1999

"Where to Get Wisdom"

Dale Whitehead

James 3:13-18

Those who are wise in God's eyes will in obedience to the truth of the gospel embrace Jesus Christ as their Savior and their Lord. Those who are not wise in God's eyes will not embrace Jesus as their Savior and Lord (1 Corinthians 1:18-24).

They are truly wise because they alone have the potential to make life count from God's perspective (John 10:10; 1 John 5:11-12).

How do we nurture our relationship with Christ so that His wisdom becomes evident in the way we conduct our lives?

We nurture our relationship with Christ and draw upon His wisdom by meditating and carefully applying His Word to our lives (Psalm 119:97-100).

We nurture our relationship with Christ and draw upon His wisdom by coming humbly to Him in prayer (James 1:5).

The Challenge (James 3:13)

Because God is faithful and will complete the work that He has begun, Christ's presence in our lives will become evident over time.

Therefore James gives us a specific challenge and that is to demonstrate the reality of our relationship with Christ by our conduct (James 3:13).

James focuses in on one particular characteristic that should be found in the lives of those who profess to be wise — gentleness. Gentleness (PRAUTES) carries the idea of tenderness and graciousness, and can be accurately translated "meekness." If Jesus is truly in our lives we should be able, in time, to see His presence and therefore His wisdom in our gentle ways.

False wisdom (James 3:14-16)

The motivation of false wisdom.

"Bitter jealousy" when literally translated would be "harsh zeal." Those who are bitterly jealous can not stand to see others in possession of the position and influences they desire.

The word translated "selfish ambition" is the Greek word "ERITHOS." This word denotes "a hired servant," one working for a cause to pay. The basic thought of the term seems to be that of one who, for personal advantage, works to promote a definite cause in an unethical or selfish manner.