

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon notes from November 13-14, 1999

Where to Get Wisdom

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 Cor. 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 (Ps. 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 (V. 13)

The Motivation of false wisdom (V. 14)

The Characteristics of false wisdom (V. 15)

The first characteristic of false wisdom is that it is earthly. It is earthly because it is limited to the present, material world of time and space. It is a closed system. By definition it has no place for God or the things of God. It has no place for spiritual truth or illumination.

The second characteristic of false wisdom is that it is "natural" (psuchike). It comes from a greek word (psuche) which means "pertaining to the life of the soul."

The term does not refer to the gross lusts of the flesh but rather denotes that which is essentially human, life apart from God as contrasted to life imparted by God, devoid of the Spirit of God, hence "unspiritual"

The third characteristic of false wisdom is that it is demonic.

The word "demonic" (daimoniodes) literally means "demonical" and stamps false wisdom as demonic in character.

The reason the person who possesses false wisdom can be cut off from God and the wisdom from above and be oblivious to it all is because false wisdom has it's roots in the kingdom of darkness (2 Cor. 4:1-4)

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

We should never think that is someone comes to Christ and embraces the Gospel that it was our work. We are not strong enough to overcome the demonic forces behind false wisdom rather it is fully the work of God (2 Cor. 4:5,6).

The great demonic delusion that will fall on the remaining, unbelieving world at that time of the tribulation will not be anything new but will rather be the full unleashing of the demonic delusion that has gripped unredeemed men since the Fall (2 Thess. 2:6-12).