

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for November 27-28, 1999

"Where to Get Wisdom"

Dale Whitehead

James 3:13-18

The "wisdom from above" refers to God's own divine wisdom, which He graciously bestows on those who trust in His Son.

The Motivation For The Wisdom From Above

"But the wisdom from above is first pure"...at the core or at the heart of the wisdom that is from above is the desire to be pure.

The Characteristics Of The Wisdom From Above

Peaceable describes a person who is ready for peace, desiring peace, fostering peace by working toward consensus, restraining discord and pacifying the turbulent elements around it.

Gentle (EPIEKES) conveys the thought of respect for the feelings of others, being willing to waive all rigor and severity in one's dealings with others.

Reasonable (EUPEITHES) is found only here in the New Testament. The KJV translates it "easy to be entreated." The NIV translates it "submissive." Etymologically it means, "Easily persuaded, with the implication of being open to reason or willing to listen.

Mercy (ELEOS) is the outward manifestation of compassion in kindly action toward the misery of another. It does not look at what a man deserves but what he needs and will therefore produce good fruits (Luke 10:25-37).

"Unwavering" (ADIAKRITOS) is used to indicate impartiality, treating everyone equally without favoritism.

"Without hypocrisy" (ANUPOKRITOS) literally "unhypocritical," denotes that this wisdom is free from all pretense; it does not need to work under a mask since it has nothing to hide.

The Result Of The Wisdom From Above

The "seed" represents godly wisdom whose fruit is righteousness.

Our sowing must be done in peace by those who make peace. We should never think that the righteousness of God can ever be achieved when angry people are behaving angrily (James 1:20).