

HEAVENLY WISDOM VS EARTHLY WISDOM

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A sermon outlines

Presented to

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By

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# HEAVENLY WISDOM VS. EARTHLY WISDOM

## Shadrack Oppong

Text: James 3:13-18.

Thesis: To illustrate to the brethren the differences between heavenly wisdom and earthly wisdom.

### INTRODUCTION

1. In the Old Testament book of Proverbs, we are encouraged to seek after wisdom (Prov. 3:13-18; 4:7-9).
2. Likewise, in the New Testament we are exhorted to walk with wisdom (Eph. 5:15-17).
3. However, James teaches us that there is more than just one kind of wisdom.
4. In this lesson, we will discuss three main points.

- I. A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR ORIGIN.
- II. A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR NATURE.
- III. A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR FRUITS.

### DISCUSSION

#### I. A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR ORIGIN.

##### A. Earthly Wisdom is not from above (Jas. 3:15).

1. It originates from the Earth.
  - a. It is worldly
  - b. Wisdom that is according to the world's standards
  - c. But this wisdom is foolishness to God (1 Cor. 1:20).
2. It is sensual.
  - a. It is appealing to the senses, the emotions, and passions.
  - b. Wisdom according to what feels right but that doesn't make it right.
3. It is demonic.
  - a. The kind of wisdom possessed by the devil and his angels
  - b. A wisdom that often finds its origin in the influences of Satan!

##### B. Heavenly Wisdom is from above (Jas. 3:17).

1. It comes down from God.
2. It comes through prayer (Jas. 1:5-8).

## II. A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR NATURE

### A. The nature of earthly wisdom.

1. It is full of bitter envy.
2. It possesses self-seeking in the heart.
3. This wisdom commends as virtues such qualities as:
  - a. Power
  - b. Position
  - c. Privilege
  - d. Prestige
4. It is this kind of wisdom that rebels and seek preeminent.
  - a. That prompted Satan and his angels to rebel against God
  - b. That prompted the disciples to argue over who would be the greatest in the kingdom

### B. The nature of the Heavenly wisdom.

1. It is first pure.
  - a. Above all else, it is true to God's Will
  - b. Not one to compromise truth for the sake of peace.
2. Then it is peaceable
  - a. Holding firm to the truth, it makes every effort to be at peace (Rom. 12:18)
  - b. For example, speaking the truth in an attitude of love (Eph. 4:15).
3. Gentle.
  - a. That is, kind in one's dealings with others
  - b. Not harsh, even when right and dealing with those who differ (2 Tim. 2:24-25).
4. Willing to yield.
  - a. Not in matters of truth
  - b. But in matters of opinion (Rom. 14:1).
  - c. In matters of liberty (Rom. 14:19-21).
5. Full of mercy.
  - a. Quick to forgive the offenses of others.
  - b. Wisely understanding one's own need of mercy (Jas. 2:13).

6. Producing good fruits.
  - a. Notice verse 13, where it says we are to show by our conduct our true wisdom and understanding
  - b. This wisdom takes one beyond being a hearer to being a doer (Jas. 1:22)
  - c. Understanding that "faith without works is dead" (Jas. 2:26).
  
7. Without partiality.
  - a. Showing no respect of persons (Jas. 2:1-13).
  - b. Rather, treating all fairly, on the same basis.
  
8. Without hypocrisy.
  - a. Indicating that all of the above is not an "act", or a "show"
  - b. But that it comes from a heart desiring to please God and not man.

### III. A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR FRUITS.

- A. The fruits of earthly wisdom are obvious.
  1. It causes confusion.
  2. It produces disobedience toward God.
  3. It produces every evil thing which are the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21).
    - a. Adultery,
    - b. Fornication,
    - c. Uncleaness,
    - d. Lasciviousness,
    - e. Idolatry,
    - f. Witchcraft,
    - g. Hatred,
    - h. Variance,
    - i. Emulations,
    - j. Wrath,
    - k. Strife,
    - l. Seditions,
    - m. Heresies,
    - n. Envyings,
    - o. Murders,
    - p. Drunkenness,
    - q. Revellings, and many others.
  
- B. The fruits of heavenly wisdom are better.
  1. It produces peace instead of confusion.
  2. It bears the fruit of righteousness, instead of every evil thing.
  3. It produces fruits of the spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
    - a. Love,

- b. Joy,
- c. Peace,
- d. Longsuffering,
- e. Gentleness,
- f. Goodness,
- g. Faith,
- h. Meekness,
- i. Temperance and many others.

## CONCLUSION

1. Certainly, when we compare their origin, nature and fruits, the wisdom to be preferred is "Heavenly Wisdom"
2. What kind of wisdom do we have?
  - a. Those who have "Earthly Wisdom" boast of theirs (Jas. 3:14).
  - b. Whereas those who have "Heavenly Wisdom" show theirs by their good conduct done in meekness (Jas. 3:13).
3. What kind of wisdom do we want?