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“The Color of Wisdom”

Weekly Bible Study Schedule
Tuesday, March 12, 7:00-7:55 AM in HHR #5
(hot breakfast provided)
Capitol Commission is non-partisan and
non-denominational

James 3:13–18 is our section of the study.

3:13 – If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.

An honorable life evidenced by wise living understands the ways of God. The way one lives not the way one talks proves wise living.

We are to build a reputation for wisdom: live well, live wise, live humble.

3:14 – But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don’t cover up the truth with boasting and lying.

The “rough around the edges” person is about themselves. When one wants something so much that they will go to great lengths to win, to get, and to secure, at the expense of others proves their jealous for that “thing.”

The foundation of such behavior is rooted in selfish ambition. Ambition is not the item in question. The Apostle Paul was ambitious to be all that God destined for him:

*Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back. So let’s keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us...Now that we’re on the right track, let’s stay on it. *Philippians 3:12–16**

Ambition is bigger than the race for money, notoriety, and or position. Ambition is to serve others. Achievements are not solely for self; they must include the community at large.

Jesus said: *“the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” John 5:19*

His ambition was to *“seek and save the lost.”*
Luke 19:10

His mission and calling was the Velcro of His ambition. Our ambition needs to hitch itself to God’s calling on our lives.

What is your mission? What is your purpose on earth?

Answer these questions, and you will know if your ambition is God inspired or self-motivated. Honest with oneself is a path to living in humility. Whether you see it or not, those around you discern the type of ambition you have. Selfish ambition is not hidden from the Lord; eventually, it exposes itself to others.

“People may be pure in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their motives.” Proverbs 16:2

Your heart will give you away every-time. For the kind of ambition in one’s heart will surely come out in one’s actions. Do not argue with the truth you will lose every time.

3:15 – For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.

Where does God’s wisdom come from?

All good gifts come from the Father above. Wisdom is a good gift. If you ask for wisdom, God Will give it generously. Humanism, naturalism, and devilish cunning are ways of jealous and selfish ambition.



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3:16 – For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

Who is the father of evil? Who is the father of lies?
Who is the author of confusion? The Devil.

Jealousy is, “I want what you have.” Satan wanted to be God. God created him the greatest of all the angels. Satan’s ambition was pregnant with selfishness.

God is the author of order – He created the heavens and the earth; the universe has ordered. Wisdom was at His side. The greatest angel, at that time, is the author of chaos.

Just as parasites growing inside the body, evil is lurking in the world.

Ascaris spp. are the largest of the human intestinal roundworms. After ingestion, the eggs hatch into larvae in the intestine before undergoing a remarkable migration back to the intestine again, where they finally develop into adult worms. Each female worm produces hundreds of thousands of eggs per day.

And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:17

Satan and one-third of all angels rebelled against God, which resulted in their expulsion from heaven landing on earth. Jude, the brother of James, and the half-brother of Jesus said of Satan’s demons:

Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. Jude 1:13

Earth is the devil’s playground. One-third of angels are now called demons, and in chaos, their purpose is to:

The thief (devil) comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I (Jesus) came that they (humanity) may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:9-11

Humankind is in a spiritual battle against darkness, evil, and the devil and his cohorts. A reality some deny, yet it remains true. It is unwise to live in chaos unaware of the supernatural battle one encounters.

3:17 – But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.

All good gifts come from above. Wisdom is a good gift. One that God gives generously to those that ask.

What is the color of wisdom?

Wisdom is pure, peace-loving, gentle, yields to others, mercy, and the fruit of good deeds. James defines wisdom, and points back to two earlier teachings: Works and favoritism. Faith without works is dead. Just as Jesus said: you will know my followers by their fruits; a fruit of wisdom is good deeds. To not favor is to live wise.

3:18 – And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

Wisdom gets along with others. Peacemakers are gentle and reasonable. It is hard work to get along with each other, to treat each other with dignity and honor. It is more difficult to reconcile differences and offenses.

Peacemakers sow what they are not what they manufacture. We reap what we sow.

