

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Meekness of Wisdom
James 3:13-18

Last time...teachers and tongues

Teachers who are either faithful or false...

unto teachers is given the greater judgment

Tongues that are either controlled by the Holy Spirit or are a fire from hell...

a follower of Jesus is to surrender control of his/her tongue to God the Holy Spirit

This time...wisdom

From above or from beneath

Meek or haughty

Peaceful or contentious

We will be in James 3

We need to start by remembering the context of this Epistle written to the entire Church:

Difficult times for the Church

- Persecution by the Romans (Gov't)
- Persecution by the Jews (Religion)
- Famine
- A simmering division within over the Gospel...
salvation by grace or salvation by works (the Judaizers)

The Holy Spirit thru James, the pastor of the Church in Jerusalem, gives the Church a no-nonsense exhortation to stay the course

- patiently, cheerfully endure all the trials facing the Church
- be single minded (mind of Christ) vs double-minded (Christ and world)
- be Christ-like...in word and deed
- keep the Royal Law...love your neighbor as yourself...rather than
playing favorites toward or discriminating against others
- be faithful...unfeigned (sincere, genuine, real) faith works
- give the Holy Spirit control of our tongues for edification vs destruction

Historically speaking, the times were profoundly ungodly

1. The Roman Empire held a very low regard for human life
 - Infanticide was practiced with shocking cruelty
 - population control
 - gender selection (boys prized, girls despised)
 - ridding society of burdensome, unproductive members
 - expediency/convenience
 - sometimes as human sacrifices to their gods

- Killing for entertainment – “games” ending with violent death played before enthusiastic, bloodthirsty crowds
- Killing for gain – war by ruthless soldiers, any disturbance of Pax Romana was met with the merciless iron fist of Rome
- Crime and punishment: extreme cruelty...torture, scourging, crucifixion, burning and burying alive, hurled from cliffs to the rocks below, etc

To say the Roman Empire was inhumane is to put it mildly

2. Injustice reigned in the Roman Empire

- The common man was lorded over by an elite minority
- The ruling class, the few special people, was determined by birth and wealth
- “The poor man counted for nothing”
- The Roman emperors were capricious self-proclaimed gods and demanded to be worshipped and obeyed without question

3. Greek culture was adopted by the Roman Empire

- men as gods i.e. their gods were glorified men
- an obsession with sexuality
 - anything was acceptable, except
 - incest
 - adultery, to ensure clear lines of succession (heirs)
 - concepts of homosexuality and heterosexuality did not exist... anybody with anybody was ok, even fashionable
 - pedophilia was practiced openly
- Family Values (from the perspective of the all-important male)
 - Learn sex at an early age from the man next door
 - Introduce your neighbor’s young son to sex with men...you
 - Marry as late as possible
 - Avoid your wife and continue to enjoy the sexual company of other men
 - Rear sons/heirs
 - Kill or sell as slaves your baby girls, maybe keep one
 - Send your sons (only) off to school
 - Marry off your daughter early
 - Eat, drink, and be merry

Two great civilizations – Greek and Roman – collapsed because of the sexual licentiousness and disregard for the value of the family

4. Greek philosophy was adopted by the Roman Empire

“Philosophy” = “lover of wisdom”

A worldview...how to view the world, how to make sense of the world... without involving OTL God i.e. based on human reasoning

v13 Who is a wise man:

Living in a cursed and fallen world in a way that is pleasing to the Creator God requires...wisdom, God's wisdom and not the "wisdom" of fallen corrupt man

The Church needed wisdom to live as lights in the darkness of the Roman Empire

We need wisdom to live as lights in the darkness of this schizophrenic nation

God's wisdom is but for the asking! (James 1:5)

What does a person possessing the wisdom of God look like?

- has been given knowledge/intelligence

The Word of God given to Judah, a nation swimming in the cesspool of idolatry, sexual perversion and child sacrifice

Jer 9:23-24 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory (boast) in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD

- lives before God and man as Jesus-kind i.e. with Christ-like behavior
- has an unfeigned/sincere/genuine faith in God, a faith that works
- meekness/humility (he/she looks like Jesus)

Matt 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

1 Cor 1:30-31 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

v14-16 But if...descends not from above:

Contrary to v13 (what the wisdom of God looks like), if you
(the Church, the Body of Christ comprised of many equal parts)
live before God and man like the devil with

- bitter envying...self-centered envy and jealousy, selfish ambition
laced with bitterness (Heb 12:15)
- strife...contention among themselves, double-minded and many-
minded vs single minded and in one accord with Jesus Christ

then do not

- boast of or rejoice in your “wisdom”...because it is foolishness
(1 Cor 1:18-25)
- deceive others (as you have yourselves, James 1:22) by saying you
have God’s wisdom

for this is man’s wisdom, the world’s wisdom

- earthy...worldly, of this cursed and fallen and corrupt world
- sensual...natural, centered around Self and mankind
- devilish...devil-like, antichrist-like

that results in

- confusion...and God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor 14:33)
- every evil work...darkness, defiled, and miserable –
Me First and Gimme Gimme

The wisdom of man and the wisdom of the world is
not meek and humble and peaceful and God-serving,
but bold and brash and arrogant and contentious and Self-serving

v17-18 But the wisdom that is from above:

Contrary to v14-16, the wisdom of man and the wisdom of the world,
is the wisdom of God

The Wisdom of God

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| <u>Prov 1:20-33</u> | revealed in a call to the foolish |
| v22 | knowledge of God (Jer 9:23-24) |
| v23 | from the Spirit of God |
| | the words of God, not the words/philosophy of man |
| v24 | given by God to help us in the world |
| v25 | all the counsel of God, every word from Gen to Rev |
| v29 | the fear of the Lord, the Word of God |
| v30 | reproof, doctrine, correction, instruction in righteousness
(2 Tim 3:16-17, <u>Heb 12:11</u>) |
| v31 | Gal 6:7-8 |
| Prov 14:12 | There is a way which seemeth right unto a
man, but the end thereof <i>are</i> the ways of
death |

	Prov 17:24	Wisdom <i>is</i> before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool <i>are</i> in the ends of the earth
v33	John 5:24	Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God

The wisdom of God (these descriptors fit Jesus ONLY) is

- pure...clean, undefiled (Prov 30:5a)
- peaceable...seeks peace, preserves peace, does not agitate
- gentle...mild mannered, not heavy-handed, does not “bite”
- easy to be entreated...“attractive” not harsh, convincing, easy to submit to
- full of mercy...compassion, the very opposite of envying and strife
- full of good fruits...the fruit of the Spirit
- without partiality...not partial/impartial, not favoritism to some and discriminating against others (consistent with the Royal Law)
- without hypocrisy...not speaking out of both sides of one’s mouth, but is sincere/genuine/unfeigned, is truth

The wisdom of God “rubs against the grain” of the wisdom of man and the wisdom of the world in that it declares as absolute unchanging truth:

- the revelation of the OTL God and the demons behind all other gods
- the OTL God created the heavens and the earth...in 6 days
- the OTL God created man in his image...man = male + female
- the OTL God has defined marriage...1 man + 1 woman, for life
- the OTL God gave man moral boundaries (conscience, the Word), within those boundaries man prospers in the things he most wants
 - love
 - joy
 - peace
 - equity/justice
 - mercy
 - kindness
 - gentleness

And the wisdom of God bears fruit

Every fruit has seed and yields fruit after its kind (Gen 1:11-12)

The fruit of righteousness yields righteousness

The wisdom of man and the wisdom of the world cannot yield peace but the Prince of Peace Who is our righteousness has sown the wisdom of God in our hearts in peace...and He is our wisdom

John 14:1	Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
John 14:27	Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
John 16:33	These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Therefore, leaning on and using the wisdom of God in our journey thru this strange place, we reap what we sow – peace

- with God (Rom 5:1, justified by faith have peace with God)
- with man (Matt 5:9 because have made peace with God)
- Is 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

Application/Lessons

This Epistle is timely and contemporary!

As the early Church faced difficult times in the midst of a wicked and perverse Roman Empire, so does today's Church in this severely fractured nation that has turned from God and increasingly despises His Word/wisdom

Historically speaking, the times in which we live are profoundly ungodly

- Life is held in a low regard...abortion and infanticide (“birthday abortions”)
 - “Women’s health”...with no regard for the child’s life/health
 - Sexual assault: incest or rape

More than 60 million legal abortions have occurred in the U.S. since 1973.

On average, 2300 human beings are killed by abortion each day in the U.S.

About 34 babies are killed by abortion every day in AZ.

Approximately 876,000 abortions took place in the U.S. in 2018.

Note: Who is paying for these “procedures”?

To a large degree, the American taxpayer via Federally-funded
Planned Parenthood

In 2016, approximately 34% of all pregnancies in New York City ended in abortion.

In 2018, there were 70,083 abortions in Florida

The State of Florida records a reason for every abortion that occurs within its borders each year.

.01% - Pregnancy resulted from an incestuous relationship.

.14% - the woman was raped

.27% - the woman's life was endangered by the pregnancy.

1.0% - there was a serious fetal abnormality.

1.48% - the woman's physical health was threatened by the pregnancy

1.67% - the woman's psychological health was threatened by the pregnancy (what does this mean?)

20.8% - the woman aborted for social or economic reasons.

75.4% - NO REASON (purely an elective "procedure")

Women's health, sexual assault...it's all a lie

"the sins of Manasseh": shedding innocent blood, which the Lord would not pardon (2 Kings 24:4)

- sexual perversions (LGBT) rising, being accepted and granted protected "civil right" status
- "philosophy"
 - Secular humanism...man is the center of all things, man is the source of life, man is the answer to all problems facing man
Embraced by liberal politicians, resulting in undeniable disastrous results
 - "Science"
 - Evolution...to deny the creation account in Genesis and the Creator
 - Life...a baby is not human until it is born, merely a "fetus" in the womb (term used to depersonalize the child in the womb and to desensitize people to the murder of babies in their mother's womb)
 - Genetics..."homosexual gene" and gender identity

In a September 2019 issue of Science magazine, geneticist Andrea Ganna at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, and colleagues, described the largest survey to date for genes associated with same-sex behavior. By analyzing the DNA of nearly half a million people from the U.S. and the U.K., they concluded that genes account for between 8% and 25% of same-sex behavior.

Numerous studies have established that sex is not just male or female. Rather, it is a continuum that emerges from a person's genetic makeup. Nonetheless, misconceptions persist that same-sex attraction is a choice...

Note: “same sex” vs homosexual

Note: Hence, the deception, “God made me this way.”

Endorsed by the Pope this week

Science is less the honest discovery of truth

(evidence of every discipline of Science declares the existence of a
Creator)

than it is a philosophy, a dishonest denial of the Creator

- bitter envying and strife
intolerance and anger/hatred abound
having a civil discourse of ideas is difficult

resulting in hostility toward and censorship of opposing views
(Twitter, Facebook, etc Big Tech)

As was in Judah, then (when this Epistle written) in the Roman Empire, and now

Is 59:3

Is 59:7-8

Is 59:9-13

man does not have answers to the problems plaguing mankind

Is 59:14-20

God has all the answers – The Truth, Jesus Christ

Where God rules, peace abounds

Two great civilizations – Greek and Roman – collapsed because of the
sexual licentiousness and disregard for the value of the family...

i.e the rejection of God and His wisdom

What will our civilization do?

We have God’s warning to consider...if we will

Prov 1:22-33

Is 60:12

Is 60:14 (mid)

Is 60:22b

Jer 7-12

Words of God to a dying nation

Regardless of what this nation chooses, we must also choose...

God’s wisdom

or

man’s wisdom and the world’s wisdom

Let us keep our focus

- Gal 6:7-9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
- 1 Tim 6:20-21 keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane *and* vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith
- Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ
- Be faithful to our mission – to issue invitations to the Kingdom of God with meekness of wisdom
 - Leave the Gov't to God (Dan 2:21, Dan 4:17)
 - Is 62:6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, *which* shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence
 - call on the Lord
 - make Him known