

# NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE CLASS

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**SCRIPTURE :** JAMES 3: 13-18

**SUBJECT:** TWO KINDS OF WISDOM

**MAJOR THEME:** GOD DESIRES FOR US TO HAVE GODLY WISDOM THAT DOESN'T WITHER WITHIN A TRENDING WORLD SYSTEM.

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# THE BOOK OF JAMES

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- James 3:13–18 (NAS):
  - 13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.
  - 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.
  - 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.
  - 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.
  - 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.
  - 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

# WISDOM

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- When we attempt to discover the meaning of a particular term, what steps should we take? Think for a slight moment.
- The normal practice we use in this technological age is to immediately call out “hey Siri” or hey Alexa or hey Google... For the most part we rely on these digital secretaries to retrieve meaning.
- Well, if we are exploring or engaging in what I call exegetical discovery (to pull out of the text what is there) then we need to use biblical sources or extra-biblical sources to discover the biblical meaning.

# WISDOM

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- The term that is the *sine qua non* (or that which is essential) for understanding James 3:13-18 is Wisdom.
- Three essential qualities we should take note of according to scholars for wisdom:
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wisdom is considered by many to be simply the art of learning how to succeed in life. That success and happiness came from living in accordance with orderliness. (Prov.22:17-24:22)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisdom is considered a philosophical study of the essence of life. Philosophic means love of wisdom or philosopher the lover of wisdom.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The real essence of wisdom is spiritual. Wisdom comes from God.

# WISDOM

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- Wisdom in a spiritual sense comes from the reverencing of God. The holy fear that one has of the creator. This is the liberating understanding of the enormous irrevocable dependency on God! If we are going to be successful in terms of what real success is in the sight of God we need to \***Start** with God, \***Stride** with God, \***Stay** with God and ultimately \***Stand** with His divine will.

# PRINCIPLES OF WISDOM

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- When we engage in a biblical study, we are attempting to find the principle(s) that the scripture is built on. The way that we can discover this is by utilizing the first law of mention. When was the first time this term is mentioned in the Bible. From this knowledge it yields and sets the tone of the principle throughout scripture even though there may be some nuances here and there.
- Gen. 3 was the initial occurrence the word wise is used. The Bible highlights when Eve was looking at the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Dt 4:6 is the first time wisdom is mentioned in the biblical writ. Now that we have established the first law of mention, we can move to our text's fuller mention which is the designated passage. This gives us the opportunity to experience what C.K. Beker calls a "word on target".

# THE BOOK OF JAMES: CONCISE OUTLINE

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- Classification in Christ- James is a bond servant
- Challenges within Christ- They are experiencing divers temptation or various trails
- Classism among those in Christ- discrimination between those in Christ
- Commandment under Christ- You shall love your neighbor as yourself
- Caution for the Teachers of Christ- Stricter judgement for teachers
- Containing our Tongue for Christ- The dangers of the Tongue

# TWO KINDS OF WISDOM

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- James has some initial concerns and those are :
- The **Warning** to the Teachers
- The **Wavering** Tendencies
- The **Wisdom** of those things that take *hold* or take over



# CLASSIFICATION OF WISDOM

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- **Example-** What is exemplary
- **Evidence-** Where is the evidence
- **Ethics-** How do we see ethics executed or carried out
  
- Caution to Teachers of Christ – Accountability, Articulation, Arson prone attributes
- Remain conscious of the *Imago Dei* “The Image of God”
- Howard Thurman “There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself.”

# CONTRASTING OF WISDOM

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- Saint Augustine stated, “if you had the opportunity to pick wisdom or eloquence chose wisdom.”
- Heart
- Bitter jealousy
- Self ambition
- Arrogance
- **Head** issue vs 13 **Heart** issue vs. 14, **Heaven** issue vs. 17 and a **Harvest** issue vs. 18
- Fred Craddock “But anyone who has spoken on a subject of immense personal significance knows that the heart lies a great distance from the tongue.”

# CHARACTERISTIC OF WISDOM

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- Pure
- Peaceable
- Gentle
- Reasonable
- Full of Mercy
- Good fruits
- Unwavering/ Without hypocrisy
- James says: “If anyone lack Wisdom James says let endurance have its perfect work”. Wisdom was viewed as a divine gift. Naturally, this is not the wisdom of this age.

# CONCEPTION OF WISDOM

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- Seed of Wisdom
- Sovereign Wisdom
- Sharing of Wisdom
  
- **Pray with me:** Gracious God direct me toward the richness of your wisdom. Help me to labor in the love of Christ so that all that I am and all that I do will have a lasting impact. In Jesus Name Amen!

# QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

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- What are the differences between the world's Wisdom and Godly Wisdom?
- How can we discern the articulation and activity of wisdom?
- Why does James provide emphasis to the differences of wisdom?
- What important role does Christ play in our grasping of wisdom?
- When are opportune times that you can exercise wisdom in your everyday walk with God?
- Who is an example in scripture of godly Wisdom?