

A Tale of Two Wisdoms Pt. 2 James 3:13-18

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 28th 2021

A life is built, much like a house...One “brick” (experience) at a time. (Is. 28:9,10)
But what if the “bricks” (*building materials*) are flawed, or the mortar holding them together is “untempered”? (Ezek. 13:10-14) The scriptures often use the physical to illustrate the spiritual.
In Mt 7:24-27 Jesus used foundations to illustrate the importance of building our lives on wise, eternal truths as opposed to building our values around temporary, foolish things.

Pr. 4:7 reminds us that: “*Wisdom is the principal thing*; (resheth’ first, foundational) *therefore get wisdom*: (hokmâ: life skills) *and with all thy getting get understanding.*” (Bînâ’: to distinguish, perceive, discern)

Pr 24:3-4 “*Through wisdom is an house (life) builded; by understanding it is established*” (kûn: Secured)

In fact, “Wisdom” is mentioned 234 times in scripture. James 3 reveals that there are two distinct and diametrically opposed types of Wisdom Available to us, that will produce two different types of: **Foundations (*Faiths*); Fruit (*Results*) ; and ultimate Fulfilment (*Lasting Satisfaction*).**

The stability (and “destiny”) of any house (life) is directly related to the quality of the foundation. Last week I challenged us to examine the source/quality) of our foundational values (Ps. 139:23,24) to determine the extent to which our values may have become “contaminated” with Worldly Wisdom.
(The wood, hay, & stubble of 1 Cor. 3:9- 16)

An honest examination of America’s foundational values is revealing and revolting!

According to George Barna “2020 World View” research, much of what’s happening to our culture (and country) can be traced to the disintegration of personal and national values.

- 70% consider themselves to be Christian, but just ___% actually possess a biblical worldview.
- Only ___% Young adults (ages 18-29) possess a biblical world view.

The impact of America’s > 350,000 churches Has been almost insignificant!

Only ___% of Evangelical church attenders have a Biblical world view; ___% for Charismatics; ___% of Mainline Protestants, and ___% of Catholics! www.culturalresearchcenter.com

James 3 contrasts the two sources of wisdom available:

1. Contrast in Origins: Vs 15, 17

A. God’s Wisdom “*Is from Above*” (an’ōthen: first, beginning, _____!)

1) It’s an extension of His very _____ *Wisdom is a biblical synonym for God’s Spirit!*

“The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom” Is. 11:2

James 1:17 gives a partial description of God and His Wisdom.

- a) Practical “*Every good*” (agathos: beneficial)
- b) Prospering “*gift*” (from did’omi: to give, grant, bestow)
- c) Perfect “*perfect*” (telios: complete in growth {of moral, mental character})
- d) Perspective “*Is from above*” See Is. 55:9
- e) Personal “*From the Father*” (See 2 Cor. 6:17,18)
- f) Penetrating (Clear): “*of lights*” (Phos: to manifest) He “sees” what we cannot! Heb. 4:12,13

Wisdom (Sophia) comes from Sophos: to make clear! It’s why Pr. 3:5-7 encourages us to trust and follow Him! It pierces through the darkness/confusion of “Worldly Wisdom” to enable us to recognize truth. (See Pr 2:10-13,16; Ps 119:9-11; Ps 119:104-105)

B. Worldly Wisdom is “earthly, sensual, devilish”

- 1) It’s an extension/expression of Satan’s Nature!
- 2) It’s ultimately “Folly” 1 Cor 3:19 *“the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.”*

2. Contrast of Effects. Mt 7:15-20 *“ye shall Know them by their fruits.”*

A. Worldly Wisdom prompted:

- 1) Eve to disobey God Gen 3:6 ... But it led to heartache and grief.
- 2) Cain to kill Abel. Gen 4... But it led to murder and separation.
- 3) Nimrod to defy God and build Babel. Gen. 11...but it led to oppression and confusion.
- 4) Abram to go to Egypt Gen. 12, But it led to Deception (vs 11-13), Abduction (Vs 14,15), Expulsion (Vs 18-20), and provided the means for future compromise. (Vs 16)
- 5) Sarah to give Hagar to Abram. (Gen. 16) But it caused Bitterness, Envy, & Strife vs 4-6, And a generational hatred that continues to this day! Vs 11-12
- 6) Saul to compromise and only “partially” obey God’s directions (1 Sam. 15) But it led to:
 - a) Blame Game Vs 15
 - b) Religious rationalization. Vs 21, 24
 - c) Political duplicity Vs 30,31
 - d) And set the stage for the eventual plot of Haman centuries years later! (See Esther)
- 7) King Solomon to make political alliances through marriage. 1 Kings 11 but: 4 *“his wives turned away his heart after other gods:...6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD”*

Conclusion:

Godly wisdom and Worldly wisdom are in stark contrast

(because they reflect the nature and character of their source).

They also are in strong _____ for our allegiance. Pr. 1:10-34; Pr. 9; Gal 5:17

Just as soil contaminates the cement in foundations, the “wisdom of this world” will act in much the same way to contaminate our foundational values, leading to cracks that eventually “shift” our values.

Worldly wisdom is convincing because it’s “Earthly, Sensual Devilish”

But it leads to Disappointment & Disillusionment. Solomon wrote Pr. 14:12-15.

In Ecclesiastes he writes of his pursuit of earthly wisdom (“under the sun”) 28x and found it ultimately produced *“vanity and vexation of spirit”* (33x) (See Ecc. 2:17!)

After realizing the failure and frustration of Worldly wisdom, Solomon finally came back to God !

12:1 *“Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not...”*

Just as God didn’t give up on Solomon, He doesn’t give up on us!

Notice how he Concludes the journal of his “Search for Significance”: vs 13,14

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. (See Rev. 4:11) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, (tôb: precious) or whether it be evil.” (ra: wretched, useless)

Application: Since so much depends on the quality of our Foundational values (aka: convictions: the literal meaning of Faith {pistis})

Doesn’t it make sense to ask God to help us identify and replace any contamination of worldly wisdom (aka: lies) with His Wisdom. (Truth) (Ps. 139)

Godly Wisdom is available to all who will sincerely seek it. (James 1:5-8)

Will You?