

INTRODUCTION

- * Four weeks ago we began to consider the Perfect Law of Liberty - summed up in our call to love our neighbors as ourselves - and then, subsequently, the application of that Law of Liberty in our lives.
- * As we transition into the next section of James' letter, we will see him transition from the Application of the Perfect Law of Liberty to the Perfect Way of Wisdom. Yet, as we transition, we will note that James' assertion that TRUE FAITH is evidenced by TRUE WORKS is also true regarding when it comes to a consideration of WHICH WAY of Wisdom you are following.
- * Last week, as part of our study of the Importance of Words, saw that those who set themselves up as teacher would receive the stricter judgment (assessment). As we considered the wording of that warning, we turned to Romans 8:1 where we are told, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus ..." But, the verse continues as does the flow of thought. Consider Paul's statement in Romans 8:1-9
- * Those who "are in Christ Jesus" will not -as a practice- walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. This statement is evidenced as well in James' declaration regarding The Contrast of the Wisdoms from which we choose.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE WAY OF WORLDLY WISDOM (v. 14-16)

A. The Source (v. 15)

1. EARTHLY (cf. John 3:12; 1 Cor 15:40; 2 Cor 5:1; Phil 2:10; 3:19)
2. SENSUAL (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:12-3:3; 1 Corinthians 15:44,46; Jude 1:17-19)
3. DEMONIC (cf. Matthew 7:22; 9:33,34; 10:8; 11:18; 12:24,27,28; 17:18; 1 Timothy 4:1-13)

B. The Evidence (v. 14,16)

1. BITTER ENVY & SELF-SEEKING IN THE HEART
 - a. Bitter - only other use in v. 11
 - b. Envy & Self-Seeking (cf. Romans 2:8; 13:13; 1 Corinthians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 12:20; Philippians 1:16; 2:3)
2. BOASTING & LYING AGAINST THE TRUTH
 - a. The Source of Pride and Lies (cf. Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19; John 8:32-46; Matthew 4:1-11; Genesis 3:1-7)
 - b. The Suppression of Truth (cf. Romans 1:18,25; Exodus 20:16; 23:1-9; Proverbs 6:19; 12:17; 14:5; 17:4; 19:5,9; 30:5-6; Job 13:7-9; 1 Corinthians 15:15; 2 Corinthians 4:2; Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Revelation 22:18-19)
3. CONFUSION & ALL EVIL PRAGMAS
 - a. Confusion (cf. James 1:8; 1 Corinthians 14:33; ... Matthew 24:45,47; 25:21,23; Acts 6:3; 7:10; 2 Peter 1:3-8; James 3:6; 4:4)
 - b. All Evil Pragmas (cf. Matthew 18:19; Luke 1:1; Hebrews 11:1; 1 Corinthians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:6)

II. THE WAY OF HEAVENLY WISDOM (v. 13, 17-18)

A. The Source (v. 17; Colossians 3:1-2; 1 Corinthians 2:6-7; Proverbs 2:6; James 1:5)

B. The Evidence

1. A GOOD LIFESTYLE (cf. 1 Peter 1:13-15,18; 3:1-4; 3:15-16; 2 Peter 2:7; 3:11)
2. MEEKNESS (cf. Matthew 5:5; 21:5; 1 Peter 3:4; 3:15)
3. PURE (cf. 1 John 3:2-3; Philippians 4:8; 1 Timothy 5:22; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Peter 3:1-2)
4. PEACEABLE (Hebrews 12:11 ... John 14:27; 16:32-33 ... Romans 5:1; 10:15; 14:17,19; 16:20)

5. GENTLE (cf. Philippians 4:5; 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 2:18)

6. WILLING TO YIELD ... only usage

7. FULL OF MERCY (cf. Ephesians 2:4; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3; Hebrews 4:16; James 2:13)

8. FULL OF GOOD FRUITS (cf. Galatians 5:22-23; Matthew 12:33; Psalm 1:2-3; John 15:5,8)

9. WITHOUT PARTIALITY & HYPOCRISY (cf. Matthew 22:16; Galatians 2:6; Romans 2:11; 1 Peter 1:17)

SUMMATION ... Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

INTROSPECTION

- * As we considered the "Evidence" of each Way of Wisdom, which is revealed by the conduct of your life?

- * Are your decisions influenced more by earthly and sensual factors, or heavenly and spiritual factors?

- * Are you desiring peace and unity?

- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Into what areas do the "Tentacles" - of the "Wisdom" we choose to follow - reach?

- * What affect do they have upon our relationships in our homes, neighborhoods, extended families, etc?