

The Book of James

The Character of a *Mature Christian*

Lesson three – James Chapter three



Black Creek church of Christ

Summer Bible School

July 18, 2018

James 3 –Outline and Study Questions:

- **A mature Christian exercises control over his tongue. (3:1-12)**
 - What is the instruction regarding teaching given by James in verse one? _____

 - What is meant by the greater condemnation (judgment) in verse two?
 - _____
 - Can you see how the words of Jesus in Lk. 12:48 might relate to this matter?

 - What are some sinful motives one might have for teaching?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - How do the words of Paul in Acts 20:26-27 relate to this issue of teaching?

 - In how many ways do we stumble? _____
 - What two things does James say about the one who offends not in word?
 - _____
 - _____
 - What does “perfect” mean? How does this relate to the theme of the book?

 - What three illustrations does James use to illustrate the power and danger of the tongue in verses 3-6?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - James tells us three things about the tongue in verse 6. What are they?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - Discussion: What are some ways (give at least 5) that the tongue is misused?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - What are some things that will help us to control our tongues?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - Even though man has dominion over creation, (Gen. 1:26), what can no man tame? _____
 - The tongue is a _____ evil. (cf. James 1:8)
 - What does James tell us that the tongue is full of? _____ (cf. Ps. 140:3)
 - *Note:* In contrast to the complete, mature, “perfect” Christian, the “inconsistent, unstable wavering of the double-minded man (1:7-8), which is manifested in an attitude of partiality (cf. 2:4) and a failure to produce justifying works (2:14-16), also comes to expression in the tongue.” (Moo, pg. 128) This inconsistency is expressed and rebuked in vv. 9-12)

- James points this out when the same tongue blesses _____ and _____ men.
- What three illustrations does James use to illustrate the incompatibility of a pure heart with impure speech?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

• **A mature Christian possesses and manifests in meekness the wisdom that is from above.** (3:13-18)

- Who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge among you? _____
- How would you define or describe wisdom? _____
- Where in the book of James has wisdom already been discussed? _____
- How is wisdom demonstrated in the life of a Christian? _____
- What is meekness? _____
- Who are some Bible examples of meekness? _____
- List and define two “products” of the wisdom that is *not* from above. (v. -14)
 - _____
 - _____
- If one has envy and strife (selfish ambition/rivalry) in their hearts, what are two things James tells them not to do? (v.-14)
 - _____
 - _____
- Where there is envy and selfish ambition/strife, there is...
 - _____
 - _____
- The wisdom that is not from above (God) is described as being... (v.-15)
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- The wisdom that is from above is...
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- Research question: Where else in James do we find the expression “from above”? _____
- By whom is the fruit (“the seed whose fruit is righteousness” – NASB) of righteousness sown? _____
- Where else in James do we read of “righteousness”? _____
- See if you can relate this section (3:13-18) to the one that follows (4:1ff). _____

- **Addendum: The Path To Wisdom: Prov. 4:5-9**

- What Is Wisdom?

- The factual knowledge and...
- The situational insight and...
- The necessary resolve...
- The courage to exercise that wisdom
 - That together has the greatest likelihood for achieving the intended goal.
- Only God, who is all wise, never fails to achieve His intended goals.
 - The wisdom of God, perfect knowledge (I Jn. 3:20), perfect insight (Ps. 147:5), and omnipotent resolve – always succeeds in his. There are no exceptions. He attains his goals/ends.
 - Romans 11:33-36 → 33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” 35 “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

- The Gospel Imparts Wisdom Unto Salvation.

- The factual knowledge, the situational insight, the determined resolve and courage that will succeed in attaining everlasting life. (I Cor. 2:6-7; Eph. 3:8-13; I Tim. 3:15)
- II Tim. 3:15 → And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- It is the word of God that imparts to us...
 - The factual knowledge (Jn. 17:17)
 - The necessary discernment (Heb. 5:14)
 - The essential resolve (Phil. 1:17) and
 - Courage (II Tim. 1:7)
 - Unto salvation...What we need to be saved and walk the narrow way of faith and obedience that leads to eternal life.

- The Blessings of Wisdom: (Prov. 3:13; 24:13-14; 19:8; 8:32-36; 16:16; 8:10-11)

- How To Get Wisdom.

- By prizing her. (Prov. 4:8)
- By praying for wisdom. (Js. 1:5)
- By pursuing her. (Prov. 2:4-5)
 - In the word revealed by God. (Ps. 19:7, 9; cf. Prov. 9:10)
 - In the world created by God. (Prov. 6:6; Matt. 6:26, 28; Rom. 1:20-22)
 - In walking with those who are wise. (Prov. 13:20; 27:17)
 - In the light of human frailty and certain eternity. (Ps. 90:10, 12; Eccl. 7:2)
 - In Jesus Christ, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Col. 2:2-3)
- By becoming a fool. (I Cor. 3:18-23)
 - 18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. 20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. 21 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; 22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; 23 And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.