

**What is God's goal for  
you as a believer on earth?**

## Romans 8:28-30

- God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God...
- God predestined believers to be conformed to the image of His Son

# Therefore...

- Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

# Therefore...

- And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

# Therefore...

- Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.





# FAITH AT WORK

A STUDY OF JAMES

JAMES 2:26

# Context of James

- Tests reveal what you know/believe
- Whether He causes them or allows them, God uses trials to reveal to us how well we truly *understand* and *do* what we say we believe



# James 3:1-12

- Test #3 – How well do you control your tongue?
  - The immature have no control
  - The mature have more control  
*(neck trained)*





*Faith and Peace*  
James 3:13-18

# James 3:13-18

1. The Challenge (13)
2. The Contrast (14-18)
  - A. Earthly Wisdom (Immature Man)
  - B. Godly Wisdom (Mature Man)



# The Challenge

- Who among you is wise and understanding?
  - Hint of sarcasm?
  - Were some boasting of their great wisdom and insight? (see v. 5)

# The Challenge

- Wise and understanding
  - **Not** intellectual: high IQ; smart; clever; able to solve riddles
  - Moral: *choosing to do* what is good and right (as when in trials - 1:2-5)



# The Challenge

- Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom
- ‘You say you have wisdom; show us your wisdom by your works.’ (cf. 2:18)
- *Vindicated by all her children* (Lk. 7:35)

# The Challenge

- Good behavior
  - *conduct* (1 Tim. 4:12); *manner of life* (Eph. 4:22) [effectual doer 1:25]
- his deeds
  - *works* (2:14, 17, 18-26)

# The Challenge

- in the gentleness of wisdom
  - *meekness* (1:21)
    - *Power under control; submission from a position of strength*
    - Matt. 27:11-14; 1 Pet. 2:21-23





## D. Edmond Hiebert

“The meek man does not feel the need to contend for recognition of his rights or acceptance of his personal views. His life is characterized by modesty and unobtrusiveness.”

# James 3:13-18

- The Challenge: 'You say you have wisdom; show us your wisdom by your works.'
- The Contrast...

# Earthly Wisdom (Immature Man)

- Bitter jealousy - *cruel envy or malice*
- Selfish ambition - *contention; partisanship; factions*; promoting ones own party / agenda / ideas
- In your heart (1:26; 2:4)

# Earthly Wisdom (Immature Man)

- Arrogant - *boast* (3:5), self-promoting
- Lie against the truth – claiming faith and wisdom but showing jealousy and partisanship is lying against the truth of the gospel (1:18, 26; 2:1-4)



# Earthly Wisdom (Immature Man)

- Does not come down from above
  - Not a gift (1:5) from God (1:17)
- Earthly – of human origin; consumed with man-centered goals, priorities
  - 1 Cor. 1:20-24; 2:5-7; Phil. 3:17-21

# Earthly Wisdom (Immature Man)

- Natural – from *psyche* (*soul*): man's unregenerate nature (1 Cor. 2:14)
- Demonic – either *characteristic of* or *proceeding from demons* (1 Tim. 4:1)

# Earthly Wisdom (Immature Man)

- Disorder – *unsettled, restless* (3:8); *confusion* (vs *peace* - 1 Cor. 14:33)
- Every evil thing – better: *every good-for-nothing practice; worthless deeds that distract from what is important*



# Godly Wisdom (Mature Man)

- The wisdom from above
  - A gift (1:5) from God (1:17)
  - Essential to the Christian life (Eph. 1:17-19; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-12)
    - *How to live out God's will*

# Godly Wisdom (Mature Man)

- Pure – *free from defilement or impurity* (like Christ - 1 John 3:2-3)
  - Wisdom avoids evil (Prov. 3:7; 8:12-13; 16:6)
  - Unstained by the world (1:27)

# Godly Wisdom (Mature Man)

- *First / then* – logical or essential order: as we pursue inner purity, the rest will flow out of it (e.g. - Prov. 16:7)



# Godly Wisdom (Mature Man)

- Peaceable – *averse to conflict, peace-loving* (Heb. 12:11)
- Gentle – *fair, patient, mild* (1 Tim. 3:3)
- Reasonable – *easily persuaded*, i.e. – willing to learn from others/teachable

# Godly Wisdom (Mature Man)

- Full of mercy and good fruits – not compassion alone but with practical application (2:13-17; works 3:13)

# Godly Wisdom (Mature Man)

- Unwavering – *without division*; no duplicity (i.e. - 3:9-12)
- Without hypocrisy – genuine; free from pretense; sincere; wysiwyg



# Godly Wisdom (Mature Man)

- The seed whose fruit is righteousness
  - Better: *the fruit of* [produced by] *righteousness is sown in peace*
  - Phil. 1:9-11; Heb. 12:11
  - Showing (13) and sowing (18)

# So What?

- This wisdom is the character of Christ
  - The Gospels
  - The Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-11)
  - Love (1 Cor. 13:4-7)
  - Wisdom (Prov. 1-3)

# So What?

- This wisdom is the character of Christ
- This is the character that God is working to produce in all believers (1:2-4; Rom. 5:3-5)



# So What?

- God calls us to work with Him
  - Pursue sanctification (Rom. 6)
  - Pursue wisdom (Prov. 2)
  - Put on the new man – remade in the image of Christ (Col. 3:9-10)
  - Show works (good behavior) (3:13)