



Living Life Skillfully

James 3:13-18

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Proverbs 4:7-9 - ⁷ Wisdom is the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. ⁸ Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. ⁹ She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you."

1. The Desire for Wisdom (James 3:13)

2. The Deception of Worldly Wisdom (James 3:14-16)

- *Earthly*
- *Sensual*
- *Demonic*

3. The Delight of Godly Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

4. The Display of Godly Wisdom (Jesus Himself)

1 Corinthians 1:30 - But of Him you are **in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God...**

Colossians 2:3 - **in whom** are hidden all **the treasures of wisdom** and knowledge.

Jesus is:¹

- Pure** (John 8:46 "Which of you convicts Me of sin?"; John 18:38, "I find no fault in this man.")
- Peaceable** (Isaiah 9:6 He is called the "Prince of peace" and He "made peace through the blood of His cross.")
- Gentle (considerate, reasonable)** (John 8:1-11 – the woman caught in adultery; Matthew 19:13-15 – the children)
- Easy to be entreated (willing to yield, compliant)** (Mark 5:22-43 – He allowed Himself to be delayed)
- Full of Mercy (compassionate)** (Hebrews 4:15 – "He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities")
- Good Fruits** (Acts 10:38 – He went about ... "doing good" ...)
- Without partiality** (Samaritan woman (John 4); Syro-Phoenician woman (Matt. 15:21-28); blind men (Matthew 9:27-30), etc...)
- With hypocrisy** (completely honest and authentic – no pretense. Matthew 23 – he told Pharisees that they are hypocrites – white-washed tombs)

3 Ways to Grow in Godly Wisdom:

- 1) Reverence God in your everyday life** (Proverbs 1:7; Romans 3:18)
- 2) Remain in God's Presence and His Word** (John 15:7; Romans 12:2)
- 3) Request from God when you need it** (James 1:5)

¹ Adapted from John Phillips, *Exploring the Epistle of James* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2004), 125-127.