

Wisdom from Heaven
James 3:1-18
Key Verse: 3:17

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

1. Read v. 1-2. What does James say about being a teacher? What must a teacher know about himself? Over what part of the body must a teacher have control? What kind of person can do that? So, how can you or I be a Bible teacher? Why should we?

2. Read v. 3-6. What examples does James give to illustrate the place of the tongue among the members of our body? How is it like a bit or rudder? How is it like a spark? What power does it have over a man's body, over the course of his life? What is the fate of a man who does not control his tongue?

3. Read v. 7-8. How is the tongue like a wild animal? What effect can it have on others? What is our hope in the face of such a difficult task? (See Ro. 8:5,6)

4. Read v. 9-12. In reality, how do we use our tongues? What is wrong with this? What is the "fresh water" in James' analogy? How can our mouths be used to produce fresh water only?

5. Read v. 13-16. What is the proper way to show others our wisdom and understanding? How does wisdom give birth to humility in us? Where do envy and selfish ambition come from? What must we do when these things arise in our hearts? What is the result if we fail to do so?

6. Read v. 17-18. What are the characteristics of heavenly wisdom? Why is heavenly wisdom pure? Submissive? Impartial? What is the fruit of heavenly wisdom? How can you be a peacemaker in this competitive and glory-seeking world?