



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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James 3:13-18 Study Hints for Discussion

1. How should those who are wise and understanding think and live?

The wise and understanding in a church will show forth a good life and do good works with a gentleness that demonstrates their wisdom. Their wisdom will come from above, from the Scriptures, from their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and from the right use of their reason. Their words and works will show forth purity and peacefulness, gentleness and cooperation, mercy and good fruits, and not be partial toward others or hypocritical. They will plant and reap righteousness and peace.

2. What does it mean to be “false to the truth.”

Paul wrote in Romans 1:18-19, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.” To be “false to the truth” is to suppress the truth or ignore the truth or tell a lie rather than tell the truth or intentionally mislead someone to take selfish advantage of them. People can be false to the truth by admitting what is true while living contrary to what they know to be true. To be false to the truth is to refuse to admit to yourself (and possibly to others) your sins and motivations for what you are doing or want them to do (to them). Paul described those who are false to the truth in Romans 1:22, “Claiming to be wise, they became fools.”

3. How would you describe a “worldly wise religion” or person; one that is “earthly, unspiritual, devilish”?

A “worldly wise religion” refuses to acknowledge the true God, Jesus Christ as Lord, or the Bible as the supreme revelation from God. They focus on “this world” and their “spirituality” does not rise above the immoral values of “this world.” Therefore, they become the slaves of demons.

4. How did James describe the religion from above?

The religion from above is revealed by God in Jesus Christ, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit. The religion from above spiritually and morally uplifts those who follow Jesus Christ. The religion from above gives those who believe in and trust in the true God, “wisdom from above.” In James 3:17, we read, “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.” The religion from above leads the followers of Jesus Christ to live obviously different from those whose religion is from this world, and they will often be rejected and persecuted by those of this world.

5. What can Christians do to make peace and what are some of the consequences of their efforts?

Christians can follow the teachings of Jesus rather than show partiality toward others, but at the same time they will not live as those who live in slavery to demons. If they try to keep or make peace with others based on Jesus’ teachings and try to teach Jesus’ teachings, they may lead some to see “the better way to live as a follower of Jesus.” They may lead some to choose to learn more about Jesus and become a follower of Jesus too. In doing so, the follower of Jesus Christ and the new follower of Jesus Christ will reap a harvest of righteousness through their way of life as those who entrust their lives to Jesus Christ as their personal Leader, Lord, and Savior.

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