

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

3:14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

3:15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

3:16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

3:18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

2023-10-15 [from today's sermon].

Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace to whom He will."

In these days of longing for the warmth of Christmas, the angels' praise for peace on earth was earnest. In the past and in the present, there has been and still is constant fighting and strife. The thoughts of our hearts are what come out of our mouths, so we must first control our hearts. The book of James urges us to look into our hearts.

What does it mean to be "wise"? Does it mean being knowledgeable, able to make wise judgments, quick-witted, or experienced?

However, the Bible tells us that there are two kinds of wisdom. There are two kinds of wisdom: the heavenly wisdom that comes from above and the earthly wisdom. Earthly wisdom is full of bitter envy and partisanship, arrogance, condescension, self-centeredness, and rivalry. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is pure, desiring peace and harmony, humble, compassionate, patient, and generous, loving reason and admitting one's faults when one is in error.

Many thoughts come and go in our minds as to what philosophy of life we should live.

We seek God's righteousness (the state of being in right relationship with God that leads to interaction), peace, and harmony, and we desire to move forward, seeking only wisdom from above and breaking away from the wisdom that belongs to the earth.

Good morning everyone. It is finally getting chilly. It has suddenly become cold, and I am sure that our bodies are busy preparing for the cold winter weather. In this situation, I would like to ask everyone to take care of yourselves and not to overdo it.

In James 3, we read last week, "We all make many mistakes. If anyone is without error in speech, he is a perfect man who can control the whole body." He who controls the small little

organ of the tongue controls the whole body, but "there is no one who can control the tongue. It is an evil that is hard to control and is full of the poison of death.

The tongue is fire. It is a world of iniquity. The tongue, which is one of our organs, defiles the whole body, burns the wheels of existence, and burns itself in the fires of hell. I was deeply impressed with the fact that to control the tongue, we have no choice but to ask God to change our hearts and minds, and that, although man cannot do it, God can.

Today, I would like to continue that story.

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? He who is wise and understanding, let him show by his good life that he is doing meekly that which is in accordance with wisdom.

What is wisdom?

Wisdom is the ability to answer questions promptly and knowledgeably, to know ten things when you hear one, to be quick-witted, and to be quick-witted. Good intuition. A wealth of experience. These are all good things, some of which can be learned in school, some of which may be due to one's own efforts, and some of which may be innate characteristics. In any case, I believe that these good things are what all people want to obtain.

I spent my elementary school days or junior high school days trying to win people's hearts and minds by telling funny stories and telling lies for the moment because I wanted to be accepted by others. I have a strange sense of pride that I am indeed a clever and wise person who can win people's hearts, but in retrospect I realize that I was just a liar who told random stories, and my shallowness would have been immediately apparent.

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? He who is wise and understanding, let him show by his good life that he is doing meekly that wisdom may be served.

If he is wise, the Bible tells us, let him show his wisdom by his good life, by acts of kindness, humility, and meekness that are worthy of wisdom. The Bible clearly says that wisdom is demonstrated by kindness, humility, and meekness, and by a person's good living. Here, too, there is wisdom in practice. It is also said to be manifested with good qualities that are expressed through kindness and humility in interpersonal relationships.

This verse tells us that there is wisdom, but it does not mean that we are cunning, inaccessible, arrogant, or self-centered.

14 But if you have bitter envy or partisanship in your hearts, do not be proud. And do not be false to the truth.

Again, the Book of James tells us to look "into our hearts," into our innermost souls, into the depths of our minds, to see if we really own that wisdom, even though we are confident that we are wise and have a reputation for wisdom.

There is envy there. It is a bitter passion. We constantly compare ourselves with others, envy them when they have something we don't have, are jealous of them, and are envious of them. They want to be better than others, in other words, they are self-centered. If a person has something, whether it is a possession or a position, he or she has earned it through hard work, and it is not something that he or she should look at with intense envy, but it is a self-centeredness that says that he or she has to be the best. How can we be so narrow-minded, so narrow-minded that we can only think of ourselves, and yet be so deep in wisdom? How can they boast, boast, and despise others, and live a life of lies and deceit in defiance of the truth?

15 Such wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but that which is earthly, that which belongs to the flesh, that which is demonic.

Wisdom is a good thing that all people seek. But the Bible tells us in today's piece that there are two kinds of that wisdom. The Bible clearly tells us that self-centeredness, the desire to be above others even if it means kicking them down or beating them up, and envying and hating others are not wisdom from above, from heaven, but that which comes from the earth, that which belongs to the flesh, and that which is demonic.

Evil spirits seek to keep one from the truth. Evil spirits seek to lead one away from the truth and toward destruction. We should not be drawn into this kind of association with evil spirits. But we know that the nature of our flesh by nature was such that our hearts were like that. We were going straight into the wisdom of a dying world, praising as wisdom that which is not wisdom. We have been taught, I believe, to master our studies, to surpass others, to be wiser than others, to attain positions, to rise above others, to live richly, and to be successful. If we are steeped in this way of thinking, those who have attained status and power are called "intellectuals," and we become intoxicated with our own success and look down on those without power, taking advantage of those with power in order to reach even higher. In the name of wisdom, such things are done.

The way we think of people as not being people is demonic. It is devilish to live a self-centered, self-absorbed, self-satisfied life, thinking that only you are cute, and only those who come on to you are cute, and to live a life of arrogance. It is heavenly and divine to live with the weak

and powerless, and to live without asking for anything in return, even if you do not gain anything, and that is truly living by wisdom.

The "demonic" way of life is also described in the following passages

1 Corinthians 10:14 Therefore, beloved, avoid idolatry. Avoid idolatry.

10:15 I appeal to you who are wise. Judge for yourselves what I say.

10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not to partake of the blood of Christ? 10:16 And the bread which we break, is it not partakers of the body of Christ?

10:17 For as the bread is one, so we are one body, though we be many. For we all partake of the one bread.

10:18 Behold Israel according to the flesh. Do not those who eat offerings worship at the altar?

10:19 What then shall we say? Does an offering to an idol mean anything? And are idols really something?

10:20 Not so. For the offerings of the people are to demons, that is, to the ungodly. I do not want you to become the companions of demons.

10:21 The cup of the Lord and the cup of the demons cannot be drunk at the same time. You cannot sit at the table of the Lord and at the table of demons at the same time.

10:22 Or do we seek to incur the envy of the LORD? Are we stronger than He?

1 Timothy 4:1 But the Spirit clearly tells us. 1 Timothy 4:1 But the Spirit clearly declares, saying, "In the latter times some will depart from the faith, being distracted by deceiving spirits and the doctrines of demons.

4:2 That is the work of hypocrisy of hypocrites, whose conscience is branded.

4:3 For these hypocrites forbid marriage, and command to abstain from food. But food is God's creation, that those who have faith and acknowledge the truth may receive it with thanksgiving.

4:4 For all that God has made is good, and there is nothing to be thrown away, if it is received with thanksgiving.

4:5 For they are cleansed by the word of God and by prayer.

4:6 If you teach these things to your brethren, you will become good servants of Christ Jesus, nourished by the word of faith and the good teaching which you have followed.

It is not clearly stated what a demonic way of life is, but I believe this is a reference to the fact

that it is demonic to twist various things for one's own glory, to rebel against God and make oneself proud by adhering to things that are not taught. As for commanding them to abstain from food, this is as it says in Matthew 6

Matthew 6:16 And when you fast, do not look gloomy, as hypocrites do. For they make themselves disfigured, trying to show others that they are fasting. I tell you well, they have received their recompense.

6:17 When you fast, anoint your heads with oil, and wash your faces, that you may be clean.

6:18 That no man may know that you are fasting, but your Father, who comes to you in a hidden place. Then your Father, who sees hidden things, will reward you.

In this poorness that we see in the hearts of religious leaders, we see how much pride, jealousy, and prestige swirl in the hearts of men, how much they value themselves most, how much they are self-interested, how much they are biased, how much they see things differently.

14 But if you have bitter envy and partisanship in your hearts, do not be proud. And do not be false to the truth.

15 For such wisdom is not from above, but is of the earth, and of the flesh, and of the devil.

16 Where envy and partisanship are, there is confusion and every abomination.

Where there is this kind of envy, a jealous heart, burning with envy, hating others and loving oneself, partisanship and rivalry, there is confusion. There is strife. There is a series of events that belong to the earth and to the flesh, that are unspiritual, demonic, evil, wrong, bad, grossly offensive, disgusting, vile, shameful, despicable, and poor.

17 But wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, forgiving, meek, full of mercy and good fruits, not partial, not deceitful.

But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is pure, simple, unpretentious, unadorned, innocent, blameless, harmless, harmless, gullible to the point of gullibility, innocent, and pure. They are peace-loving, harmony-loving, kind, considerate, patient, and generous. They love reason and can admit their faults, are full of compassion and sympathy, bear fruit that is beneficial and not just words, are free from all prejudice and favoritism, and are sincerely sincere and honest. This biblical portrayal gives us a sense of a trustworthy personality that is not backed up or pretended to be.

18 The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by peacemakers.

How can we make this kind of Godly, heavenly wisdom, filled with such sincerity, ours?

The key lies within this word "righteousness. Righteousness is a right relationship with God. It is a way for us to know what God wants and desires from us, and then what is right. Without God, we cannot discuss what is right and what is wrong. Our righteousness is simply that we have received a righteous and good relationship with God that enables us to desire and do what is right. This is because He died on the cross to become the substitute sacrifice for us, the way, the truth, and the life for us.

Herein is peace, harmony, and tranquility. We used to be unable to do what is right because of the bitterness in our hearts, because of our sins. But we have received light from above, light from heaven. And we have become peacemakers, sowers of peace, in peace.

We have had our hearts changed, we have had the evil thoughts of our hearts destroyed, and we have been given a new mission in God's righteousness, and this is what we are thankful for and proud of. In this grace, in communion with the Lord and in His guidance, as those who receive His character, we hope to move forward this week in gratitude.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. Thank you so much for always blessing, nurturing, protecting, and guiding us in our good relationship with God. Fill our hearts with good wisdom from above to protect and guide us, renew the old things, and deliver us from trials and dangers. Fill us with good things as we move forward, seeking the wisdom from above, and subduing our own hearts. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.