

## Bible Study 7 - James 3:13-18

This passage is a natural outgrowth of the discussion of the tongue. The six verses divide into three sections: an exhortation (v. 13); earthly wisdom (vv. 14–16); and wisdom from heaven (vv. 17–18).

1. James addresses the person who is 'wise and understanding.' The word 'wise' was the technical term among the Jews for a teacher. It appears that the author is still speaking to those who would be teachers (cf. 3:1); What is James' concern for these people?
2. How does wisdom relate to a person's behaviour? (v.13)
3. What do you think is meant by the phrase 'the meekness of wisdom?' (v.13)
4. How can somebody be 'false to the truth?' (v.14)

5. If godly wisdom comes from above, where does ungodly wisdom come from? (v.15)
6. What is the result of jealous and selfish ambition? (v.16) Why must we be eager to avoid this kind of attitude within the local church?
7. James next turns to a description of 'the wisdom that comes from heaven.' What does Godly Wisdom look like in the life of a believer? (v.17) How does it contrast to earthly wisdom?
8. What is a 'harvest of righteousness?' What kind of people produce a "harvest of righteousness?" (v.18)
9. James teaches that our behaviour reveals the source of our wisdom. Earthly wisdom generates selfish conduct, and heavenly wisdom produces purity. How do we obtain and develop Godly Wisdom and character in our lives?