

“Choose Your Wisdom”
James 3:13-18

Our God is a God who makes choices. He chose to create the world and mankind who inhabits it. He did this in an orderly manner, day by day, and resting on the seventh day. He can love or hate (Mal. 1:2-3; Rom. 9:13). He made man in His image and gave Adam and Eve the ability to choose as well. They could choose to obey or disobey regarding eating from the Tree of Knowledge (Gen. 2:16-17). Abraham chose to believe God (Rom. 4:3) and Moses' parents chose to disobey Pharaoh's edict (Ex. 2:2-3). Joshua chose to serve the Lord (Josh. 24:15). Christ chose submission and obedience (Luke 2:51; Phil. 2:8). James submits that his readers have a *choice* concerning wisdom.

James transitions from the discussion of the tongue to the impact that knowledge and wisdom should have on one's life. A general definition of knowledge states that it consists of information and facts and that wisdom is their skillful application in practical situations. However, knowledge in Scripture is more profound than simple facts and entails the relationship of **knowing** God experientially (John 17:3; 1Cor. 2:14; Eph. 3:19; Phil. 3:10; 1John 2:3). James also differentiates between the world's wisdom and the wisdom of God.

The world's wisdom is *earthly* (limited and temporal). It is *sensual* (animalistic, signifying an unredeemed spirit). It is even *demonic* (in its' origin and ultimate results; John 8:44). James warns his readers that if bitter envy and strife is in their hearts it is evidence that they are influenced by this worldly wisdom, which is not from above (James 1:17). These further result in confusion and evil works. This is vividly portrayed in the accounts of demonic possession recorded in the New Testament (Mark 5:2-7; Luke 4:33-35, 9:38-42; 1Tim. 4:1; Rev. 16:13-14, 18:2).

God's wisdom first and foremost is only available to those who *know* the one true God, because it is *spiritually discerned* (1Cor. 2:5-16). He is the source of true wisdom (Job 9:4; Ps. 104:24, 111:10; Prov. 1:7, 2:6, 3:19). It is His gift (Dan. 1:17, 2:20-23; Eph. 1:17). Jesus Christ *is* the wisdom of God (1Cor. 1:24-30) and all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Him (Col. 2:3)! Since believers possess the mind of Christ (1Cor. 2:16) the fruit of wisdom here listed should be evident in our lives.

