

MISUNDERSTANDING AND TWISTING THE TRUTH

James 3:13-18

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Misunderstanding the truth and wisdom is a temptation that comes to every person, but especially to those who teach in the Church. What is true wisdom, the kind that brings about the good life, the kind one should have? One of the greatest temptations teachers have is the temptation to twist wisdom, the truth.

I. THE WISE, UNDERSTANDING TEACHER

1. James 3:13
2. The wise teacher does exactly what he/she should in behavior and conduct.
 - A wise teacher lives what he/she teaches and preaches which is God's Word.
 - Morality and purity, righteousness and justice, help and encouragement, etc.
 - A wise teacher knows that he/she cannot teach one thing and do/live something else.
 - Matthew 7:24-27; John 7:17; Philippians 1:27; 1 Timothy 4:12; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Peter 1:12
3. The wise teacher will show meekness - gentle, tender, humble, mild, considerate.
 - Meekness is loving people and peace.
 - Meekness wants things to be right and done right.
 - Meekness is self-control
 - Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:25; Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 3:4

II. FALSE WISDOM AND WRONG TEACHING

1. James 3:14-16
2. False wisdom and wrong teaching described:
 - They arouse bitter envy and jealousy among teachers and members.
 - Matthew 20:11-12; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Galatians 5:21; Philippians 1:15-17
 - They arouse a spirit of strife in the heart - friction, selfish ambition.
 - Philippians 2:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:14, 24; Proverbs 17:19; 25:8
 - They arouse a spirit of boasting and self-glorying - pride within the heart.
 - Matthew 23:12; Mark 10:37; Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 8:2; Galatians 6:3
 - They arouse lies against the truth.
 - False teachers are inconsistent with the Word of God - not teaching the truth.
 - False teachers are inconsistent in not living the truth - Sunday religion ONLY.
 - Matthew 7:21; Mark 7:6; Romans 2:21-23; Titus 1:16; 1 John 3:18
3. False wisdom and wrong teaching are of the earth and not of God.
 - False wisdom focuses upon the earthly attitudes.
 - the nature of people - focuses upon life now, not eternal.
 - False wisdom and wrong teaching are natural and not spiritual.
 - focus on physical and mental, not spiritual.
 - False wisdom and wrong teachings are of the Devil - Satan

4. False wisdom and wrong teaching produce terrible effects.
 - Confusion within the Church - confusion and evil within the church families - causes the weak believers to return to the world - causes people to depend on rituals and ceremonies.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 14:33; 1 Thessalonians 2:4-5
 - Steps to correcting wrong teachings are:
 - Humbly bowing before God in repentance and confession.
 - Turning away completely from such things.
 - Returning to proclaim the pure truth and nothing else, in God's Spirit.
- Matthew 11:28; John 7:37; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 9:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 12:12; Jeremiah 5:14; Ezekiel 33:8-9

III. THE TRUE WISDOM OF GOD

1. James 3:17-18
2. The source of true wisdom is from above - God.
 - True wisdom does not come from mankind nor this world.
3. True wisdom described:
 - It is pure - free from fault and defilement, totally and completely.
 - Purity is first in importance and it is the first gift God gives to those seeking wisdom.
 - Matthew 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:5; 1 Peter 1:22; 2 Corinthians 7:1
 - It is peaceable - binds, joins, weaves together.
 - Works to bring people closer to each other and especially closer to God.
 - Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14; 2 Peter 3:14
 - It is gentle - forbearing, reasonable, considerate, agreeable, courteous, patient, soft.
 - Does not criticize, condemn, censor, neglect, or ignore people.
 - Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:7; 2 Timothy 2:24; Titus 3:2
 - It is reasonable.
 - Willing to listen and to change if wrong.
 - Romans 12:1; 1 Samuel 12:7
 - It is full of mercy - pity, compassion, affection, kindness.
 - Seeks and meets needs and does not discriminate.
 - Matthew 5:7; Luke 6:36; Micah 6:8
 - It is full of good works - reaches out
 - Gives and teaches others to give.
 - Matthew 25:35-36; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 10:24-25
 - It is without partiality - favoritism, undivided.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:2; Galatians 1:7-11
 - It is without hypocrisy - free from insincerity.
 - Lives what he/she teaches about God's Word.
 - Titus 2:7-8; Philippians 1:9-10; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 1:12
4. The effect of true wisdom is the fruit of righteousness. Righteousness comes from PEACE.
 - People at peace with each other - at peace with God - a world of peace.
 - John 14:27; 16:33; Romans 14:17; Ephesians 2:13-14; Colossians 1:20; 1 Corinthians 15:54

CONCLUSION:

Pastor conclude as you feel led.

