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Londrina, Bra

Two Kinds of Wisdom

James 3:13-18 talks about two kinds of wisdom. There is really only *one* kind of wisdom, but it talks about two kinds of wisdom. It asks who *is* wise and understanding among you? These are two things we cry out for in a loud voice (Pr 2). We are to lift our voice up for wisdom and understanding. If we are wise and have understanding it will be manifested in the good life we live here in the community — in deeds done in humility which proves that we have wisdom. But if you store up envy in you, harbor bitter envy, if you *have* it, it means you harbor it, you store it, you keep it, you don't confess it, you allow the sun to go down on your anger. *Or*, if you have selfish ambition, wanting to gain position, rivalry in your heart (verse 14), selfish preoccupations, preoccupied on things about yourself, then if you pride yourself on having wisdom, you will be in defiance of the truth. You defy the truth; you lie; you will be false.

James 1:5 talks about wisdom. The reason we do not ask for wisdom is because we do not think we *lack* wisdom. Elad (our Israeli guest), an unbeliever, prides himself with having wisdom, but he doesn't really know what wisdom is, because he could never live and work with people in peace and unity, and *that* is the fruit of pure wisdom: peace, unity. Therefore you would not have selfish ambition, strife, envy, jealousy; you would not be striving to get ahead, trying to be something you are not (Rom 12:3). The obvious result of wisdom is that it manifests itself in peace, lack of envy and lack of selfish ambition. So if you have selfish ambition, it means you are not wise. So we should ask our generous God and it will be given to us (James 1:5).

What does wisdom enable us to do? it enables us to face trials and suffering when they come. It is an enabling power. If you have wisdom, you know that these things are good for us. You can face circumstances. You can face circumstances with pure joy (James 1:2). "Consider it pure joy when you encounter various trials because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance so that you will be *fully developed*, not lacking anything. You don't *know* that if you don't have wisdom. But if you *do* have wisdom, you know that trials produce a testing

of your faith that produces perseverance. If you don't have wisdom, you don't know that and when trials come, you blow up.

So consider the trials that come as pure joy. If you have wisdom, you will. When you hear *pure joy*, what do you think *pure* means? What is pure joy? Joy not mixed with anything else. Not joy mixed with sorrow, or complaint, or bad attitude, but *joy* — unadulterated, pure joy. *Because* we see what it is producing in us. *That's* why the people in Acts 14:22 rejoiced — because they saw that their hardship was *leading them* to the kingdom. If it is not *pure* joy, we are not being *purified*.

But how do we handle all of the circumstances that our Father *knows* will happen in our life together in the community? We have to have wisdom. What does wisdom enable us to do? Whenever you face trials of *many* kinds, how many of us consider it as *pure* joy? Nobody? Well, nobody's got wisdom. It's not after it is over that you are to consider it joy, it is *when you face* the trials, when you are going through them. Well, at least you *know* you lack wisdom; then you can ask for it. If you have a natural mind, you probably still think you have plenty of *wisdom*.

Be assured that the trials you face test your faith and bring about the endurance so that you may be *fully developed*, lacking in nothing (James 1:2-4). *Because* of the wisdom you have, you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance, and perseverance must finish *its* work. Our Father has put us in the perfect environment to develop our character so we can be approved. Rom 5:1-5 — We are now standing in that place where our Father has put us (verse 2) and that place or environment is the community. We stand here now *in* that place. And you can see how it reads in verse 3 about people who have wisdom. And what does wisdom enable us to do? Have joy in our trials, knowing that they produce perseverance. And so (James 1:4), perseverance *must* finish its work so that we may be mature. We are growing up and becoming mature and perseverance is *how* we mature. We mature in the faith through perseverance. If we never mature, we will never enter the kingdom. He cannot have immature people in the kingdom, but only people who have *fully developed* the mind of Messiah, because such people He can count on to rule over the earth with the mind of Messiah. Since we have gone through the testing

of our faith, we can finally be approved (Rom 5:4). Endurance, perseverance, fortitude develops maturity of character. What kind of character do you have? Do you have a character to go through testing and hardship (Acts 14:22)? It is *through* hardship that we develop, become mature, become approved, and have tried integrity. And character of this sort, that we fully develop through all of this hardship, produces the joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation and such hope never disappoints us.

James 1:12 — "Blessed, happy, to be envied is the man who is patient under trial and stands up under temptation, for when he becomes mature in it, when he has stood the test and has been approved, he will receive the victor's crown." Who is going to drink the victory cup with our Master when He returns to this earth? The wise, the one who has the victor's crown (Dan 12:3,10). God has promised this crown "to those who love Him" (1 Cor 16:22). That is why our love must be the kind of love that will endure the testing of time. Not just one day or a month, but year after year after year, until we have become fully approved. Can you see where we are headed? How do you get there? Easy street? Or hard street? Narrow or broad? The narrow way is contracted by pressure (Mt 7:13,14; Lk 13:23,24).

Today everyone is trying to make it easy for themselves, wanting to have the most comfortable way, going to college, trying to get good jobs in which they don't have to work by the sweat of their brow. Everything is going away from the second covenant that He made with Adam and Eve and all who would come after them so that they wouldn't have to go to the second death. All *will* go to the first death, but not everyone will go to the second death. The only purpose for colleges is to take a person to the second death — it's a guarantee because it violates that covenant that God made with man in Gen 3:19. That's the broad way — trying to get outside the walls of that second covenant.

So why is it that Paul said what he said in Acts 14:22? And why did the people rejoice? Doesn't it seem strange that they would rejoice? Why did they rejoice? Because they were *going* through hardship. They probably heard what you are hearing today and they rejoiced because

they learned the truth, that their hardships were producing the character in them that they needed to enter the kingdom and be kings with Messiah.

James 1:4 — Perseverance *must* finish its work. It *has* to, because if not, you are not going to be made ready for the kingdom — not lacking *anything*. If we lack one *thing*, we are not going to be able to be kings with Him when He returns to this earth. Our Father has put us into an environment where, if we are wise, we will be made ready for His return, fully prepared, our character approved, all of the impurities taken out of us (1 Jn 3:2,3).

Selfish ambition. How many people have selfish ambition? James 3:13 — Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his life of good deeds done in humility that comes from wisdom. So if you have wisdom, you will do deeds in humility; you will live a good life. But if you have envy and selfish ambition in your heart, you deny the truth. Such wisdom ... (What kind of wisdom *is* that — wanting to get ahead, to be great, to be better than someone else, instead of just being what you are and letting our Father do the promoting?) *Such* wisdom doesn't come from heaven. It is earthly; it's *unspiritual*. Where does it come from (verse 15)? Right directly from the evil one. Because that is what *he* had in *his* heart. Lucifer was the archangel who fell because he had selfish ambition. That's why it says do not lay hands on an elder too soon, because he will participate in Satan's sin, which is selfish ambition, living for yourself. That is what cause the downfall of all mankind. In every religion today there is selfish ambition — it is diabolical. That is why there is disorder and every evil thing: strife, envy, jealousy, wars, immorality. Christianity is probably worse than any religion in the world today. Rev 18:2 talks about *how* diabolic and demonic Christianity is. It's full of all *kinds* of evil spirits. They, especially the Catholic Church, have been murderers all the way down through history. It says, "the blood is on their hands (verse 4); come out of her (verse 5); her sins are piled up as high as heaven."

So we know where *that* wisdom (James 3:14-16) comes from — from the evil one. Where you have envy and selfish ambition, you find many denominations, divisions, disorder and every evil practice. In the Greek it says, "where you have jealousy and contention, you have

rivalry and selfish ambition." We had better have *none* of that here. That's *all* you find in Christianity because it is denominated. Denominations came from that very source, from the devil — selfish ambition, wanting to be ahead, wanting to be different; *you're wrong — I'm right*; dividing off and dividing off again and again and again. It's like a mushroom: the First Baptist Church, then the Second Baptist Church, then the Main Street Baptist Church, then the High Street Baptist Church. Soon you start naming the churches after the street they are on. They are all divided and all are a result of division, never a result of apostles having been sent out to establish another church. It is because they are not the church — they are something false. In them you find disorder, rivalry, contention, confusion, unrest, disharmony, rebellion, and every evil and vile practice. In Christianity there is a scandal every day. Preachers going into the homes of women and taking advantage of them (Paul already said that would happen), homosexuality, adultery — it is filled with all kinds of immorality (2 Tim 3:4-6).

That kind of thing cannot even be *mentioned* among *us*. There cannot even be a *hint* of that in our midst (Eph 5:3). We are to be imitators of God. Among you there is not to be *any* kind of impurity, envy or greed, nor obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse jesting which are *out of place*. It *is* out of place, isn't it? Verses 5-7: "You can be sure of this: no immoral or impure or greedy person will have a place in the kingdom, for such a man is an idolater ... because of these things wrath is coming upon them. Do not be partakers with them; have nothing to do with their fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them" (verse 11).

James 3:17 — *This* is the kind of wisdom *we* must have in order to be at peace with one another. Whoever has eternal life will have this: the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, it loves peace, is considerate, full of mercy, full of good fruit, impartial, and sincere, straightforward, full of compassion; its fruit is justice (verse 18); it makes peace. Do you promote peace? What will those who make peace now be called for eternity (Mt 5:8)? They will be called the sons of God. If you are not a peacemaker, you are not a son of God — you are only fooling yourself. What do you have to have in order to be a peacemaker? You have to have wisdom. If we have wisdom we will be able to handle all of the trials in the Body. So let's ask for

wisdom (Pr 2). It keeps us from the wrong path. Wisdom keeps us on the narrow path (Mt 7:13-14).

The Sabbath

Whoever keeps the Sabbath keeps the covenant with our Father. We keep the fourth commandment as a sign that the ten commandments are written on our hearts. They do not even *have* those ten commandments on the stones anymore. They cannot *find* them. But we do not need them on stone anymore, because it is in our hearts. Keeping the Sabbath is the sign that we *have* it in our hearts. Our God is the Creator. He has a purpose for us and we are fitting into that purpose. *And* we have wisdom that keeps us in peace and unity (Jn 17:20-23) as in our Master's prayer, which starts in verse 20, not 21, because if you do not hear the good news through one sent from the anointing of the Holy Spirit, there will be all kinds of disorder.