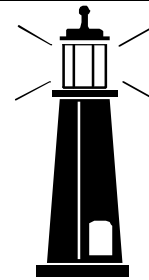


The Berryville church of Christ

Bible Beacon

"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)



Volume 2, Issue 35

September 7th, 2003

Heavenly Wisdom

Kevin Cauley

The book of James has been called the "Proverbs" of the New Testament due to the amount of practical matter that the book discusses. Among the various topics within the book, there is a discussion of heavenly wisdom. This discussion begins in James 3:13. James compares and contrasts the wisdom that is from above versus the wisdom that is of the Devil. Let us look at some great lessons from this passage of scripture.

First, wisdom is shown out of life's works with meekness. James writes, "Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversation (life) his works with meekness of wisdom." The question that James is asking in this context is rhetorical. James is saying: if you would be a wise man and endued with knowledge, then show from your good life meek works of wisdom. Meekness is a quality which every Christian should have (Galatians 5:23). What are works that are "with meekness of wisdom?" Works such as visiting the orphans and widows (James 1:27), visiting the sick and infirmed, visiting the shut-ins, visiting the prisons (Matthew 25:35-40); these are works which most men are loathe to do, but the wise man will do such meek and lowly deeds knowing that his Savior smiles upon such wisdom.

Second, James lets us know what kind of "wisdom" to avoid. He says, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work." Notice the source of this devilish wisdom--the heart that contains bitter envying and strife. There is no trouble that starts without someone first thinking within his or her heart that another person is doing something that they personally don't want them to do; herein lies

envy. Then, when that desire is long nurtured, it becomes bitter--it refuses to leave the heart and constantly works it way to the front of the individual's consciousness. The result is an attitude of strife instead of an attitude of peace. Ultimately such bitter envying and strife results in confusion and evil works. James says that this type of wisdom is earthly, sensual, and devilish. It is earthly because this is the way that the natural man behaves (1 Corinthians 2:14). It is sensual because the base desires that feed such an attitude come from personal fleshly lusts (1 John 2:15-16). It is devilish because Satan desires that this type of attitude be held in the heart of man (John 13:2). Such "wisdom" should be avoided.

Third, James let us know what kind of wisdom to hold dear. He says, "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." Heavenly wisdom begins with purity. Purity is singleness of purpose with holy motives. Its opposite is double mindedness (James 1:8; 4:8); this is where we say one thing, but our true purpose and motives is something completely different. Heavenly wisdom is not like this, but is pure. It is also peaceable. That is, it seeks the way of peace first. Paul wrote, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18). There are times when peace cannot be had, but it **MUST** be sought diligently. Heavenly wisdom is peaceable. It is also gentle. It was said concerning Jesus, "A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory" (Matthew 12:20, 21). There are those who have the attitude, if it's almost broken, go ahead and break it! This was not the attitude of Christ. He sought every possible way to do what he could to gently teach those who were almost broken. Such is the attitude of heavenly wisdom. Notice that heavenly wisdom is easy to be entreated. In today's language we would say that such a person is "approachable." In other words, you feel comfortable speaking to this person. You have no

reason to distrust. This one is trustworthy. Heavenly wisdom is full of mercy and good fruits. Again we see works of mercy are necessary for one to be wise in heaven's way. Heavenly wisdom is without partiality as is God (Acts 10:34). This wisdom takes no account of how much money a person has or what their social status is, or what their handicaps are, or what their personal problems are. Finally, this wisdom is without hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is the fruit of being double minded. Heavenly wisdom cannot have a person saying one thing and doing another.

Finally, James speaks of the wonderful results of this wisdom. He says, "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." When we are wise in heaven's way and seek to practice such wisdom in our life, then we will be able to sow the seed to others. This passage is not saying that this attitude is necessary to reap the fruit of righteousness, but to sow the fruit of righteousness. And how true this is! When those in the world see within us bitterness, strife, envyings, and sensuality, what kind of influence can we expect to have upon them? They will want nothing to do with us. But when we display the characteristics of purity, peace, gentleness, approachability, being without partiality and hypocrisy, they will want to know more about how we live our life. Then we have the opportunity to sow in peace.

What kind of wisdom is seen within your life? Let us all work and pray that it will be the kind of wisdom that comes from above!

Kevin's Korner



We had multiple blessings this week in regard to our weather. Last weeks rains were supplemented with a torrent of showers on Monday, labor day.

This kept the Cauley family pretty much in the house. Gasoline prices have also been so high as of late, that it has just been impractical to go anywhere. So we had a lovely time at home, Monday, listening to the wonderful rain fall. I hope that you had a relaxing labor day yourself.

This week saw the beginning of my volunteer work at the lower elementary school. I am volunteering on three days out of the week in the afternoons. So with all of my other activities, such as the community center, nursing home, and hospitals, I was a busy boy this past week. We also have other members here who are volunteering at

the school and they are highly appreciated. These do good works, not to be seen of men, but to give glory to God and such should all our motives be.

Mary Lynn met a new person to the community this past week--one of the new owners of the Shamrock motel. This woman is deaf, but her husband is hearing, so they are much like us. Well, we went to visit this couple and immediately their was a connection. The deaf are really extremely isolated from the world due to their deafness, and it is so nice to have someone with whom to be friends and communicate. We are so thankful to God for such a wonderful opportunity for encouragement and to encourage others into the grace of Christ. Have you encouraged someone this week? Let's get the message out: Jesus saves today!

Yesterday was such a beautiful day, that we went up to Viney Creek recreational area in Missouri and had a picnic. I know that some of you live in this area and so know about it. However, for those of you who have not heard about it, it is a beautiful place. There is a playground for the kids and wonderful camping accommodations. We are truly blessed here to have such wonderful places to relax and enjoy God's creation.

Yesterday evening, I got out to mow the lawn and the boys went outside as well. Two things happened. Austin found a snake, but not a poisonous one. It was a green striped garden snake. Charlie, on the other hand, found a hornet. We don't know how it all happened, but he was stung at least five times and was in tremendous pain. For any of you who have been stung before, you know how awful this feels. Fortunately, it did not appear that Charlie was allergic to the stings and so with a little baking soda and water applied and a dose of Benadryl given, he was feeling a little better. While hornet stings are temporary, let us remember that the sting of sin is death (1 Corinthians 15:56). Christ, however, gives us the remedy for such a sting--victory in His Name!

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

Deacons: Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle.

Preacher: Kevin Cauley 870-423-6707

Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:.....9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship:6:00 PM
 Ladies Bible Class:..... 10:30 AM
 Wed. Evening Bible Class:.....7:00 PM

Fence Me In!

Have you ever owned a dog and kept it in your fenced-in backyard for its own safety? Steve Higginbotham has. He writes: **"We loved our dog, Whitney!** We had a fenced in backyard where she could run and chase birds and squirrels to her heart's content. She was living a dog's life. Pampered, petted, well fed, and loved. However, one day she escaped the confines of our yard, ran into the street, and was killed by a passing truck. It was a sad day for our family." Perhaps you can relate all too well to this experience. **But this article isn't really about a DOG - it's about the purpose of FENCES!**

The fence that Steve had in his back yard was NOT an effort to punish or unnecessarily restrict his dog from "enjoying the good things of life." **It was there for protection! It was there for safety!** Placed within the confines of the fence were ALL the things a dog needed for happiness. The fence wasn't there to torment the dog, but to keep her safe.

Unfortunately, many consider the commands of God to be too restrictive and burdensome. Because of His commands, He is often viewed as a cruel tyrant. Nothing could be further from the truth....

God loves us dearly! In fact, He gave His own Son for us so that we could become His children (see 1 John 3:1; 4:9-10). Those who place their faith in Jesus (Hebrews 11:6), repent of their sins (2 Corinthians 7:9-10), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) in water for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38) are welcomed into His family. Yes, God has expectations for His children, but these expectations are ALSO expressions of His love.

God has "fenced us in" by His commandments, not as a punishment, but as protection. There are things out there in the world that will ultimately lead to our hurt and ruin (see Proverbs 14:12). God is not a kill-joy. The rules and regulations He gives us, which restrict our conduct, are given with the intent of protecting us from harm. Within the confines of the Christian lifestyle are ALL the things a person needs to be happy, satisfied, and fulfilled. **But what do we do? We**

escape! We break through the barrier that GOD BUILT, and eventually we get hurt. How it must break God's heart to witness his children "break free" from his constraints only to be hurt from the dangers He knew....were just outside his "fence."

How many things we suffer - by DEMANDING and GETTING our OWN way! Friends, remember, the commandments of God are not GRIEVOUS, but GOOD! They are given because God loves you and wants the BEST for you. Be content and satisfy yourself with the good that God provides **"within His fences,"** and TRUST Him when he tells you - **NOT-** to go BEYOND His limits.

Unfold A Rose

Author Unknown

It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so easily,
But in my hands they die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in God for leading
Each moment of my day.
I will look to God for guidance
In each step of the way.

The path that lies before me,
Only my Lord knows.
I'll trust God to unfold the moments,
Just as He unfolds the rose.

Sunday's Sermons

For September 7th

Morning.....Saved by Grace
Scripture Ephesians 2:8-10
Evening.....Let Us Not Be Moved
Scripture Colossians 1:23



| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Sunday Class..... | 61 |
| Sunday A.M. | 75 |
| Sunday P.M..... | 61 |
| Wednesday | 50 |
| Contribution | \$1811.75 |
| Budget | \$1760.00 |

News, Notes and Prayer List



- We praise God for a new and wonderful Lord's day!
- Welcome visitors! Please fill out one of our info cards.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Michael Collins, Ruth Hill, Curtis Hull, Janice Keck, Charles Swink, Charles Taylor, Maxine Whitely.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- This afternoon the youth are planning on making their annual trip to Lost Valley. Immediately following AM services, lunch will be here at the building. Please be a part of this wonderful annual tradition.
- Due to the excursion to Lost Valley our normally scheduled youth devotional will not be held this evening.
- Ladies Time Out will be Friday, September 12th, at Pizza Hut at 4:00 PM. Please take advantage of this opportunity for fellowship.
- Our monthly questions and answers session will be next Sunday evening. If you have a Bible question which you would like answered, then please put it in the box.
- Saturday is our monthly men's breakfast.
- Our annual GOSPEL MEETING is coming up fast! This year our speaker is brother John Stuckey. The dates are October 5th through the 8th. Please make your plans and start inviting others!
- There is a preachers/elders meeting tomorrow in Joplin, MO. If you wish to go to this with me, please be at the building tomorrow morning at 8:00.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Peanut Butter.



Those to Serve

| | <u>Today</u> | <u>Next Week</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday Morning: | September 7th, 2003 | September 14th, 2003 |
| Song Leader: | Bill Fort | Brent Stevens |
| Preacher: | Kevin Cauley | Kevin Cauley |
| Opening Prayer: | Leon Duncan | George Eddings |
| Scripture: | Sandy Nieves | Brent Moore |
| Lord's Table: | Clay Bozarth | Bill Fort |
| | Bruce Foster | Leon Duncan |
| (assist) | Brent Moore | Raymond Kimes |
| | Rusty Windle | Brandon Foster |
| Closing Prayer | Jack Gentry | John Gass |
| Sunday Night: | | |
| Songs: | Rusty Windle | Bruce Foster |
| Preacher: | Kevin Cauley | Kevin Cauley |
| Opening Prayer: | Matt Bassing | Clay Bozarth |
| Scripture: | George Eddings | Glenn Williams |
| Lord's Table: | Dale Pinkley | Leon Duncan |
| | Brandon Foster | Rusty Windle |
| Closing Prayer | Ken Smith | Dale Pinkley |
| Wednesday | | |
| Songs: | Glenn Quigley | Hugh Atchley |
| Opening Prayer: | Clay Bozarth | Bill Fort |
| Invitation: | Dale Pinkley | Ken Smith |
| Closing Prayer: | Bruce Foster | Dale Pinkley |
| Monthly Assignments | | |
| Announcements | Larry Elliott | |
| Worship Coordinator | Bob Moore | |
| Communion Prep | Trish Foster | Debbie Duncan |
| Communion Carry | John Gass | Rusty Windle |

The "Berryville Bible Beacon" is published by the Berryville church of Christ. Please contact Kevin Cauley at work at (870) 423-3068 or at home at (870) 423-6707 or e-mail bvcc@alltel.net to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
Berryville church of Christ
909 West Trimble Street, Berryville, AR 72616