

Wisdom from Above

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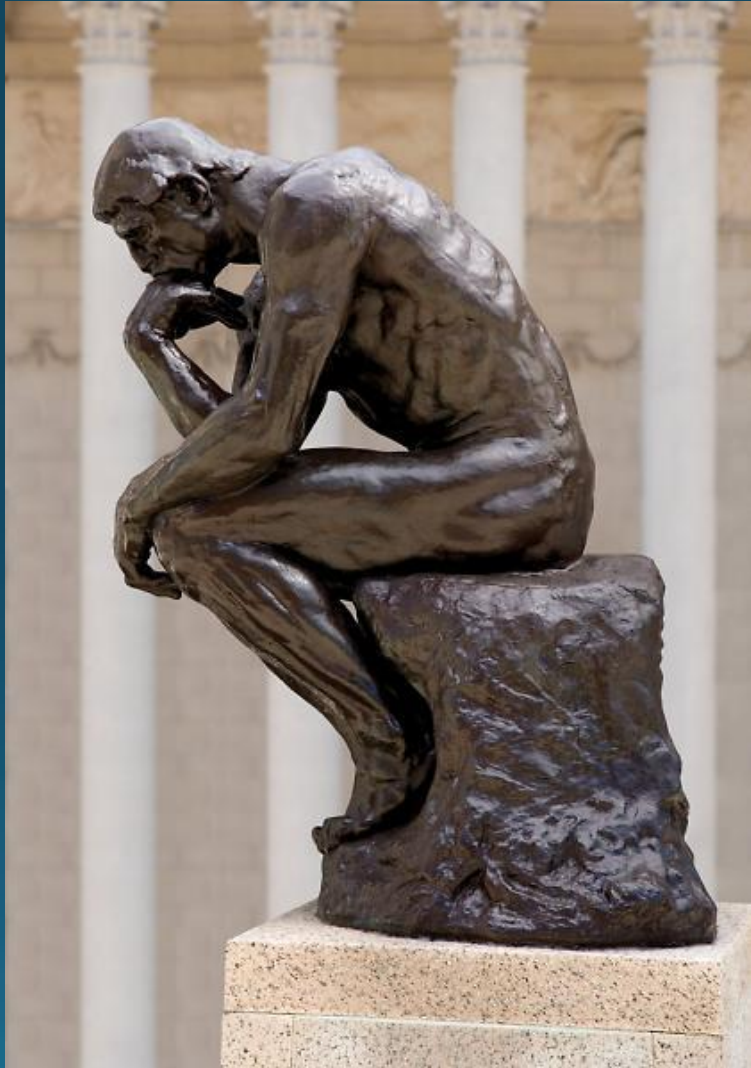
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Story of King Solomon (I Kings 3:1-28; 11:1-13)

Text: James 3:13-18

- ***13** Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. **15** This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. **17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. **18** And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

What Is Wisdom?



What Is Wisdom?

- *Wisdom is more than mere knowledge – The Oxford English Dictionary defines wisdom as "Capacity of judging rightly in matters relating to life and conduct; soundness of judgement in the choice of means and ends - it is knowing what to do with the knowledge that one has been given.*

“The right use of knowledge”

Charles H. Spurgeon



Wisdom From Above

What does godly wisdom look like?

- Results in good works with meekness – throughout James' epistle genuine "faith" is to be affirmed by "good works" and Christ-like character – wisdom results in a life well-grounded in the reality of a situation*

Earthly wisdom

- *Unspiritual and demonic :*
 - a. Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in one's heart*
 - b. Boastful and false to the truth – not being able to truly “see” truth because of self- pride that is deceptive – pride blinds us to the truth*
 - c. Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice – one becomes overly self-protective, seeking to preserve “self” over all others – basically, it's all about “me”*
 - d. Bottom Line: Earthly wisdom: 1) Tends to look after self-interests 2) Follows worldly thinking*

Heavenly wisdom

- *From above, from God:*
 - a. Pure- reflects godliness*
 - b. Peaceable – seeks peace among all*
 - c. Gentle – is not harsh or bitter toward others*
 - d. Open to reason – is not “closed” to the thinking and input from others*
 - e. Full of mercy and good fruits – forgiveness abounds wherever possible as well as doing good toward all*
 - f. Impartial – looks at all sides of an issue*
 - g. Sincere – is not flippant, glib, shallow or half-hearted*

- *Bottom Line of Heavenly wisdom:*

- *Tends to look at the big picture knowing that everyone and everything matters – assesses the entire system*
- *Is open to outside information rather than narrowly ruling out possible facts to the contrary*
- *Tries to see the heart of the matter (actual causes) rather than look at mere “symptoms”*
- *Puts the common good of all first*
- *Seeks God’s honor above all*

“A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace”

(James 3:18)

Remember:

- **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Proverbs 1:7)**
- **“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6)**
- **“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” (James 1:5)**

*Wisdom from God comes by knowing
God – this is made possible through
the one and only mediator between
God and Man – Jesus Christ*

(I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 9:15; 12:24)

Worldly Wisdom

