

- **Where's Your Wisdom From?**

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- ▼ **Where's Your Wisdom From?**

- ▼ **Review what scripture we're covering and why.**

- We're reading through the New Testament in **chronological** order (the order in which the books were written) rather than **canon** order (the order in which they appear in the Bible).
- We're doing this because it will help us to understand what the good news of the Kingdom of God means and how it spread.

- ▼ **The Gospels**

- The events related in the gospels took place around 30 A.D.
- The gospels themselves were not written down until several years after Galatians and James.
- The gospels describe the initial announcement of God's Kingdom by Jesus and his death, burial, and resurrection through which he was established as the world's Lord.

- ▼ **Acts**

- Acts describes the growth of God's Kingdom from Jesus' resurrection around 30 A.D. through its establishment in Rome around 63 A.D.
- So far we are dealing with the church as it was at about Acts 15.

- ▼ **Galatians - written A.D. 49 (contemporaneously with Acts 14 - 15)**

- The churches in Galatia were composed mostly of gentiles (i.e. non-Jews) who had responded to the proclamation of the gospel by Paul and others.
- Judaizers were telling the gentiles that they needed to become Jews first in order to follow Jesus.
- Paul wrote to correct this misinformation and explain that their salvation was by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law.

- ▼ **James - written A.D. 50 (contemporaneously with Acts 14 - 15)**

- Many of the Jewish believers had been scattered through Judea and Samaria as a result of the persecution described in Acts 8:1-3.
- James wrote to help correct some misunderstandings about salvation by faith.

- **Read the Passage: James 3:13-18**
- **Exegetical Idea**
Genuine wisdom from heaven makes you humble and peaceful rather than envious and selfish.
- **Homiletical Idea:**
Where's your wisdom from?
- ▼ **Recognize the difference between the world's wisdom and God's.**
 - Bitter envy and selfish ambition reflect worldly "wisdom" not God's.
 - Some people boast about their worldly "wisdom".
 - Some who consider themselves to be "wise" (in a worldly way) reject the truth of God's word.
 - Jesus was humble and peaceful in the way he lived.
- ▼ **Recognize ways our quest for sophistication or appearing wise runs counter to God's word.**
 - Our society values cynicism and self-promotion. If we're not careful, we will absorb these qualities.
 - Sophistication is another way of describing what often passes for the world's wisdom. When we seek sophistication we should ask ourselves what audience we're playing to?
- ▼ **Develop a lifestyle that cultivates God's wisdom.**
 - ▼ Cultivate godly habits:
 - Prayer
 - The Word
 - Fellowship
 - Testimony: God's Kingdom is here and Jesus is it's Lord.
 - Reduce your investment in the world.
 - Stay close to brothers and sisters who will tell you honestly how you're doing.
- ▼ **Discussion Questions & Topics**
 - What is the difference between the world's wisdom and God's.
 - In what ways do you try to maintain a sophisticated image?
 - In what ways do you share the cynicism of the people in your personal network?
 - How can you grow in God's wisdom? How and when will you act on this?