

WISDOM FROM HEAVEN OR HELL?

By Keith Greer

In James chapter three, he gives us some thoughts concerning the proper and improper uses of the tongue. Understanding our duties in these areas will help us in all aspects of our lives.

"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!" {James 3:5}

The tongue is a small member of the body, yet it does have great power. James gives examples of bits in horses' mouths, and the small rudder which guides large ships. Can you see how these are the same? The tongue can control the whole body!

"But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. "{James 3:8}

Does James tell us that it is impossible to control the tongue? No! One must always keep his tongue under guard. We never reach a point where it can't be misused! Self-control of this member is a never ending job. We must be careful, cautious, and conscious of the good and evil it can produce.

"Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so." {James 3:10}

How can we, as God's children, offer prayer to Him, sing songs of praise to honor Him, and teach from His divine word, and with same mouth curse men? James tells us man is made in the "similitude of God". To curse, speak evil of, gossip, or belittle others is a slap in the face to God!

Let me give you a little example. When brethren go home after services and run down other brethren in front of their children, what lessons are they teaching them? This, I believe, is one of the reasons we are losing so many of our young people to the world. Hypocrisy cannot be hidden.

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. "{James 3:13,14}

If one does have true wisdom, how will it be known? By good conduct and the proper use of his tongue. The self-seeking heart lies against the truth. Remember the words of Paul in Philippians 2:2-5.

"This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. "{James 3:15-17}

Men have a choice to make. Do we take the wisdom of Hell or the wisdom of Heaven? This choice will be seen by the way we use our tongues.

The wisdom from Hell is earthly, brutish, and demonic. Simply put, it comes from Satan! Self-seeking, bitter, biting and devouring each other. The wisdom from Heaven is from above. Pure, peaceable, gentle, merciful, easily entreated, and bearing good fruits.

Two things could not be more opposed to each other. Only ONE type of wisdom will help us make better decisions, live purer lives, be more effective in letting our light shine before me, make choices that will draw us closer to God, and give better information on which to lean on in this life.

Which wisdom will you choose? Only by accepting the wisdom of Heaven can we hope to please God. This wisdom will uplift, encourage, and bless all we come in contact with. Such wisdom will be a wonderful benefit to self and even more to those we meet and can influence for the cause of Christ. Yet, as with all of God's instructions we each must make up our minds as which path we will choose to follow. Use your tongue properly and guard it always.***