

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART THIRTY NINE OF SIXTY FOUR*

The wisdom that God provides for His people has seven characteristics. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without variance, without hypocrisy" (James 3:17). Let us give diligence to put this wisdom into our life.

PURE. True wisdom produces only holiness without defilement. Any vile deed comes from the devil. Possessors of heavenly wisdom desire only to be clean and holy. **PEACEABLE.** God's people are not given to conflict. Living with God they live orderly and at peace. They possess love which is not provoked (I Cor. 13:5). Strife from jealousy and ambition is found among the servants of Satan. **GENTLE.** This word in Greek is difficult to translate into English. "Thus it seems that the word carries the idea of 'reasonableness' and 'graciousness', the absence of bad manners and quick temper" (Roberts). **EASY TO BE ENTREATED.** The arrogant, dogmatic, unyielding person will not easily be persuaded to learn more of God's will. Any Christian must be willing to learn. God's people are obedient and open-minded

to learn more of His will. **FULL OF MERCY AND GOOD FRUITS.** "Mercy" refers to "compassion." It usually is associated with charity toward the poor. To be "full of" indicates the presence of a large measure. Such was our Lord "who went about doing good" (Acts 10:38). He said, "By their fruits ye shall know them" (Mt. 7:16). The practical, day by day life of God's people shows whether or not they truly follow God's wisdom. **WITHOUT VARIANCE.** God's people consistently follow the right course. Human wisdom is apt to be shifty. Wisdom from above does not change according to circumstances. Sin is always sin. God does not respect the person who is not prepared to abide in truth, or who will change convictions "as the prevailing wind blows". **WITHOUT HYPOCRISY.** The followers of Christ are without pretense. They are always straitforward and without evasion. Their every word and act is based on genuine sincerity.

Living upon this earth for the brief time we have demands knowledge and wisdom. The only source of true wisdom is God. Let us always look to His will and live thereby.

(B. G. Echols)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

412 East King Street
Shippensburg, Pa. 17257