- 1. REVIEW: WHERE TO GET GOD'S WISDOM
 - A. NOTE: GOD'S WISDOM IS RELATING THE TRUTH FOUND IN HIS WORD TO OUR DAILY LIVES.
 - 1. QUESTION: HOW CAN WE RELATE GOD'S WORD TO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES IF WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS WORD SAYS?
 - 2. ANSWER: MAKE TIME TO STUDY HIS WORD.
 - B. **SOURCES** OF **GOD'S WISDOM** FOR **BELIEVERS**:
 - 1. **GODS WORD**... IS A **SOURCE** OF **WISDOM** FOR **BELIEVERS**.
 - a. <u>John 8:32</u> (NASB) "and you will know the <u>truth</u>, and the <u>truth</u> will make you free."
 - 2. TRIALS... JAMES SAYS <u>BELIEVERS</u> CAN GAIN <u>WISDOM</u> BY <u>TRUSTING</u>

 GOD <u>THROUGH</u> <u>TRIALS</u> THAT ARE <u>SURE</u> TO COME.
 - a. James 1:2-4 (NLT2)
 - "Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an **opportunity for great joy**. For you know that when your faith is tested, your **endurance** has a **chance to grow**. So let it **grow**, for when your **endurance** is fully **developed**, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing"... **INCLUDING WISDOM**.
 - 1) James 1:5-8 (NLT2) If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.
 - 3. PRAYER... BELIEVERS CAN ASK GOD TO GIVE THEM WISDOM.
 - a. <u>James 1:5-7</u> (NLT2) "If you need <u>wisdom</u>, <u>ask</u> our generous <u>God</u>, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.
 - 4. <u>JESUS</u>... <u>BELIEVERS</u> CAN GAIN <u>WISDOM</u> FROM THE <u>LIFE</u> <u>OF</u> <u>JESUS</u>.

- a. Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT2) "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."
- C. KNOWLEDGE ENABLES US TO TAKE THINGS APART... BUT WISDOM ENABLES US TO PUT THINGS TOGETHER... AND APPLY GOD'S TRUTH TO DAILY LIFE.
 - 1. IT'S RELATIVELY <u>EASY</u> TO <u>TAKE THINGS APART</u>... IT'S <u>NOT</u> SO <u>EASY</u> TO <u>PUT THINGS</u> <u>TOGETHER</u>.
- D. <u>SOMETIMES</u> WE <u>MISS</u> THE <u>HEART</u> OF <u>GOD'S</u> <u>MESSAGE</u> AND <u>FAIL</u> <u>TO MAKE</u>

 PRACTICAL <u>APPLICATIONS</u> = <u>RELATE</u> <u>GOD'S</u> <u>TRUTH</u> <u>TO EVERYDAY</u> <u>LIFE</u> = <u>WISDOM</u>.
 - 1. OUR FAILURE TO APPLY GOD'S TRUTH TO EVERY DAY LIFE IS THE "KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT WISDOM" THAT JAMES WROTE ABOUT.
- E. <u>James 3:12-18</u> SHOWS THE <u>CONTRAST</u> BETWEEN <u>TRUE</u> <u>WISDOM</u> AND <u>FALSE</u> <u>WISDOM</u> (<u>NOTE</u> THE <u>CONTRASTING</u> <u>CONJUNCTIVES</u> = "<u>BUT</u>", "<u>BUT</u>", "<u>AND</u>") USED IN THE <u>THREE</u> <u>DIFFERENT</u> <u>ASPECTS</u>...
 - 1. **CONTRAST** IN **ORIGINS** (3:15, 17a)
 - 2. **CONTRAST** IN **OPERATIONS** (3:13–14, 17)
 - 3. **CONTRAST** IN **OUTCOMES** (3:16, 18)
- F. SEE THE CHART ON PAGE 8: IT CONTRASTS THE WISE AND THE UNWISE:
 - 1. BY SHOWING A <u>LIST</u> OF <u>OUTWARD</u> <u>SIGNS</u> AND <u>INWARD</u> <u>CHARACTERISTICS</u> FOR <u>BOTH</u> THE <u>WISE</u> AND THE <u>UNWISE</u>...
 - 2. AS WELL AS THE **RESULTS** OF **LIVING** A **WISE** OR AN **UNWISE** LIFE.
- G. SEE THE <u>CHARTS</u> ON <u>PAGE 9</u>: THEY <u>CONTRAST</u> THE <u>WORLD'S</u> <u>WISDOM</u>
 WHICH IS <u>SELF-ORIENTED</u> AND <u>GOD'S</u> <u>WISDOM</u> WHICH IS <u>OTHER-ORIENTED</u>.

- 2. CONTRAST IN ORIGINS... WORLDLY WISDOM -VS- GOD'S WISDOM
 - A. <u>James 3:15,17a</u> (NASB) "This <u>wisdom</u> (<u>worldly</u> wisdom) is <u>not</u> that which <u>comes</u> <u>down from above</u>, <u>but</u> is <u>earthly</u>, <u>natural</u>, <u>demonic</u>... <u>But</u> the <u>wisdom from above</u> is first of all <u>pure</u>.
 - 1. THE CONTRAST IN THE ORIGIN OF WISDOM:
 - a. JAMES SAYS THAT WISDOM IS EITHER...
 - 1) "FROM ABOVE" (GOD)... OR:
 - 2) "EARTHLY" (WORLDLY/MAN)
- 3. CONTRAST IN OPERATIONS ... WORLDLY WISDOM -VS- GOD'S WISDOM A. THIS SECTION IS ABOUT HOW WISDOM OPERATES IN OUR LIVES.
 - B. James 3:13-14,17 (NLT2) "If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying... But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others (reasonable). It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism (impartial) and is always sincere.
 - C. SINCE GOD'S WISDOM AND EARTHLY WISDOM ORIGINATE FROM RADICALLY DIFFERENT SOURCES... IT FOLLOWS THAT THEY OPERATE IN OPPOSITE WAYS.
 - D. THE **EVIDENCE** (OUTWARD SIGNS) OF **WORLDLY** WISDOM:
 - James 3:14,16 (NLT2) But if you are bitterly <u>jealous</u> and there is <u>selfish</u> <u>ambition</u> in your heart, don't cover up the <u>truth</u> with <u>boasting</u> and <u>lying</u>. For wherever there is <u>jealousy</u> and <u>selfish</u> <u>ambition</u>, there you <u>will</u> find <u>disorder</u> and <u>evil</u> of every kind.
 - 2. JEALOUSY /STRIFE
 - a. <u>Philippians 2:3</u> (KJV) "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
 - b. THE <u>SPIRIT</u> OF <u>SELF-SEEKING</u> CREATES <u>RIVALRY</u> AND <u>DIVISION</u>... <u>ESPECIALLY</u> <u>IN THE CHURCH</u>.

- 3. **SELFISH AMBITION/ENVY**
 - a. THE <u>WISDOM</u> <u>OF</u> THE <u>WORLD</u> <u>EXALTS</u> <u>MAN</u>... AND THEREFORE <u>ROBS</u> <u>GOD</u> OF <u>GLORY</u>.
 - b. **QUESTION**... ARE MY **AMBITIONS SPIRITUAL** OR **CARNAL**?
 - 1) DO I <u>REJOICE</u> WHEN <u>OTHERS</u> <u>SUCCEED</u>... <u>OR</u>, DO I HAVE SECRET <u>ENVY</u> AND <u>CRITICISM</u>?
 - 2) DO I FEEL BURDENED WHEN OTHERS FAIL ... OR, AM I SECRETLY GLAD?
- 4. PRIDE/BOASTING... REMEMBER JAMES IS GIVING ILLUSTRATIONS OF FALSE WISDOM.
 - a. <u>1 Corinthians 1:31</u> (NLT2) "Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."
 - b. PRIDE LOVES TO BOAST, AND NOTHING IS PROUDER THAN THE WISDOM OF MEN AND WOMEN!
 - 1) THERE ARE <u>WAYS</u> TO <u>REPORT</u> <u>BLESSINGS</u> SO THAT <u>GOD</u> <u>GETS</u> <u>THE</u> <u>GLORY</u>... <u>BUT</u>, THERE IS ALSO A <u>PRIDEFUL</u> <u>APPROACH</u> THAT GIVES <u>US</u> THE <u>PRAISE</u>.
 - c. WHEN GOD'S WISDOM IS AT WORK, THERE IS A SENSE OF HUMILITY AND SUBMISSION... WANTING GOD TO GET ALL THE GLORY.
 - 1) ... THEN YOU HAVE <u>NO DESIRE</u> TO <u>COMPARE</u> <u>YOURSELF</u> WITH ANY OTHER <u>CHRISTIAN</u>, <u>BECAUSE</u> <u>YOU</u> <u>SEE ONLY CHRIST</u>... AND <u>COMPARED</u> WITH <u>HIM</u>, <u>ALL OF US STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO!</u>
- 5. LYING/DECEIT
 - a. THE **SEQUENCE** IN JAMES 15-16 IS **NOT DIFFICULT** TO **UNDERSTAND**:
 - 1) <u>FIRST</u>, THERE IS <u>SELFISH</u> <u>AMBITION</u> THAT LEADS TO <u>JEALOUSY</u> AND <u>STRIFE</u>.
 - 2) <u>THEN</u>, IN ORDER TO <u>PROMOTE</u> <u>OURSELVES</u> WE <u>RESORT</u> TO <u>BOASTING</u>; AND <u>BOASTING</u> USUALLY <u>INVOLVES</u> <u>LIES</u>!
 - b. NOTE: LIFE IS NOT READ IN OUR PRESS RELEASES ... IT'S READ BY THE LORD IN OUR HEART.
- E. THE <u>EVIDENCE</u> (<u>OUTWARD</u> <u>SIGNS</u>) OF <u>TRUE</u> <u>SPIRITUAL</u> <u>WISDOM</u>:
 - 1. James 3:13,17-18 (NLT2) If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to

GOD'S WISDOM CONTRASTED WITH MAN'S WISDOM – JAMES 3:13-18 others (<u>reasonable/impartial</u>). It is full of <u>mercy</u> and <u>good deeds</u>. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

2. **HUMILITY/MEEKNESS**

- a. MEEKNESS IS NOT WEAKNESS... IT IS "POWER UNDER CONTROL".

 1) A MEEK PERSON WILL NOT SELFISHLY ASSERT THEMSELVES.
- b. NOTE... THERE IS A FALSE HUMILITY THAT SOME PEOPLE MISTAKE FOR MEEKNESS... BUT, IT IS ONLY COUNTERFEIT.
- c. <u>MEEKNESS</u> IS THE <u>RIGHT USE OF POWER</u>, AND <u>WISDOM</u> IS THE <u>RIGHT USE OF KNOWLEDGE</u>... <u>THEY GO TOGETHER!</u>

3. PURITY

- a. "<u>FIRST</u> PURE" INDICATES THE <u>IMPORTANCE</u> OF <u>HOLINESS</u>... <u>GOD</u> <u>IS</u>

 HOLY; THEREFORE, THE <u>WISDOM</u> FROM ABOVE IS PURE.
- b. GOD'S WISDOM LEADS TO PURITY OF LIFE... MAN'S WISDOM MAY LEAD TO SIN.
- c. PURITY MEANS MORALLY CLEAN, MARKED BY ETHICAL INTEGRITY...
 LOVING WHAT IS GOOD, TRUE, AND BEAUTIFUL.

4. PEACE

- a. MAN'S WISDOM OFTEN LEADS TO COMPETITION AND RIVALRY...
 BUT GOD'S WISDOM LEADS TO PEACE.
 - 1) IT IS A <u>PEACE</u> <u>BASED</u> ON <u>HOLINESS</u>... <u>NOT</u>, <u>ON</u> <u>COMPROMISE</u>.
- b. A <u>PEACEMAKER</u> IS <u>NOT</u> <u>ARGUMENTATIVE</u>, <u>QUARRELSOME</u>, OR <u>BELLIGERENT</u>... <u>BUT</u> ONE WHO BRINGS <u>HARMONY</u> AND <u>UNITY</u>. PROMOTING <u>CLOSENESS</u>, <u>NOT</u> <u>DIVISIVENESS</u>.
 - 1) THE ONE WHO HAS GOD'S WISDOM BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER RATHER THAN SEPARATING THEM.

5. **GENTLENESS**

- a. <u>GENTLENESS</u> CARRIES THE <u>MEANING</u> OF <u>MODERATION</u> <u>WITHOUT</u> <u>COMPROMISE</u>, <u>GENTLENESS</u> <u>WITHOUT</u> <u>WEAKNESS</u>.
 - 1) THE GENTLE PERSON DOES NOT DELIBERATELY CAUSE FIGHTS...

 BUT, NEITHER DOES HE COMPROMISE THE TRUTH IN ORDER TO KEEP PEACE.
- b. **GENTLENESS** CARRIES THE IDEA OF BEING <u>EQUITABLE</u>, <u>MODERATE</u>, AND <u>YIELDING</u>.

- GOD'S WISDOM CONTRASTED WITH MAN'S WISDOM JAMES 3:13-18
 - 1) IT IS <u>ABLE</u> TO TAKE AN <u>INSULT</u> OR AN <u>UGLY COMMENT</u> AND <u>TURN</u> THE <u>OTHER CHEEK WITHOUT</u> <u>RETALIATION</u>.
 - 6. REASONABLE/IMPARTIAL
 - a. GOD'S WISDOM MAKES THE BELIEVER AGREEABLE AND EASY TO LIVE WITH AND WORK WITH.
 - 1) MAN'S WISDOM MAKES A PERSON HARD AND STUBBORN.
 - 2) THE REASONABLE PERSON IS <u>WILLING</u> TO <u>HEAR</u> <u>ALL</u> <u>SIDES</u> OF AN <u>ISSUE</u>... <u>BUT</u>, HE DOES <u>NOT</u> <u>COMPROMISE</u> HIS <u>OWN</u> <u>CONVICTIONS</u>.
 - i. HE CAN <u>DISAGREE</u> <u>WITHOUT</u> <u>BEING</u> <u>DISAGREEABLE</u>.
 - ii. HE IS "<u>SWIFT</u> TO <u>HEAR</u>, <u>SLOW</u> TO <u>SPEAK</u>, <u>SLOW</u> TO <u>ANGER</u>" (JAMES 1:19).
 - b. When we <u>Lean</u> on the <u>World's</u> <u>Wisdom</u>, we are <u>Pressured</u> FROM <u>ONE SIDE</u> AND <u>THEN ANOTHER</u> TO <u>CHANGE</u> <u>OUR</u> <u>MIND</u> OR <u>TAKE</u> <u>A NEW VIEWPOINT</u>.
 - 1) WHEN YOU HAVE GOD'S WISDOM, YOU NEED NOT WAVER...
 YOU CAN BE DECISIVE AND NOT BE AFRAID.
 - 2) WISDOM FROM ABOVE BRINGS STRENGTH FROM ABOVE.

7. MERCIFUL

- a. TO BE "FULL" OF <u>SOMETHING</u> <u>MEANS</u> TO BE "<u>CONTROLLED</u> <u>BY</u>."
 - 1) THE PERSON WHO FOLLOWS GOD'S WISDOM IS CONTROLLED BY MERCY.
 - 2) Luke 6:36 (NASB) "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
- b. THE <u>PARABLE</u> OF THE <u>GOOD</u> <u>SAMARITAN</u> <u>ILLUSTRATES</u> THE <u>MEANING OF MERCY</u>.
 - 1) FOR A <u>SAMARITAN</u> TO <u>CARE</u> <u>FOR</u> A <u>JEWISH</u> <u>STRANGER</u> WAS AN ACT OF <u>MERCY</u> = COMPASSION.
 - 2) HE COULD GAIN NOTHING FROM IT... EXCEPT THE BLESSING THAT COMES FROM DOING THE WILL OF GOD.
 - 3) THE <u>VICTIM</u> <u>COULD</u> <u>NOT</u> <u>PAY HIM BACK... THAT IS <u>MERCY</u>!</u>
- 8. GOOD DEEDS/"FRUITS"
 - a. <u>PEOPLE</u> WHO ARE <mark>FAITHFUL</mark> ARE <mark>FRUITFUL</mark>.
 - 1) GOD'S WISDOM MAKES LIFE FULL... WITH GOOD DEEDS/FRUIT.
 - b. GOD'S WISDOM IS PRACTICAL... IT CHANGES OUR LIFE AND PRODUCES GOOD WORKS (FRUIT) TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

1) John 15:1-5 (NLT2) "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

9. SINCERE

- a. WHEN MAN'S WISDOM IS AT WORK, THERE MAY BE INSINCERITY AND PRETENSE.
- b. WHEN GOD'S WISDOM IS AT WORK, THERE IS OPENNESS AND HONESTY, "SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE" (EPH. 4:15).
- c. WHEREVER YOU FIND GOD'S PEOPLE PRETENDING AND HIDING...
 YOU CAN BE SURE THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD IS GOVERNING
 THEIR MINISTRY.
- d. IT MEANS STEADFASTLY HONEST, AUTHENTIC TO THE CORE.
 - 1) **SINCERE** PEOPLE WILL *NOT* DELIBERATELY <u>DECEIVE</u> ANYONE OR EVER APPEAR TO BE SOMEONE HE OR SHE IS NOT.
- 4. THE CONTRAST IN OUTCOMES ... WORLDLY WISDOM -VS- GOD'S WISDOM
 - A. James 3:16,18 (NLT2) "For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind... And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.
 - B. WORLDLY WISDOM PRODUCES TROUBLE
 - 1. <u>James 3:16</u> (NASB) "For where <u>jealousy</u> and <u>selfish ambition</u> exist, there is disorder and every evil thing." = TROUBLE
 - 2. NOTE: ORIGIN DETERMINES OUTCOME... WORLDLY WISDOM WILL PRODUCE WORLDLY RESULTS... GOD'S SPIRITUAL WISDOM WILL PRODUCE SPIRITUAL RESULTS.
 - 3. **COROLLARY...** WRONG THINKING PRODUCES WRONG LIVING.
 - a. <u>ONE <mark>REASON</mark> THE WORLD</u> IS IN SUCH A MESS IS <u>BECAUSE</u> MEN AND WOMEN HAVE <u>REFUSED</u> TO <u>ACCEPT</u> THE WISDOM OF GOD!
 - 4. THE <u>WORD TRANSLATED</u> "CONFUSION" MEANS "DISORDER THAT COMES FROM INSTABILITY."
 - a. <u>James 3:16a</u> (NLT2) "For wherever there is <u>jealousy</u> and <u>selfish</u> ambition, there you will find disorder... = <u>CONFUSION</u>.

GOD'S WISDOM CONTRASTED WITH MAN'S WISDOM – JAMES 3:13-18

b. EXAMPLE: ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS WE CAN DO IN OUR LIVES IS TO MEASURE OUR LIVES BY THE WORD OF GOD... NOT BY THE WISDOM OF MEN.

C. GOD'S WISDOM PRODUCES BLESSINGS

- 1. <u>James 3:18</u> (NASB) "And the <u>seed</u> whose <u>fruit</u> is <u>righteousness</u> is <u>sown</u> in <u>peace</u> by <u>those</u> who <u>make peace</u>."
- 2. JAMES <u>RETURNS</u> TO AN <u>ILLUSTRATION</u> OF <u>FRUIT</u> AND <u>INDICATES</u> THAT THERE IS A <u>VAST</u> <u>DIFFERENCE</u> <u>BETWEEN</u> <u>MAN-MADE</u> <u>RESULTS</u> AND <u>GOD-GIVEN</u> <u>FRUIT</u>.
 - a. FRUIT IS THE PRODUCT OF LIFE, AND FRUIT HAS IN IT THE SEEDS FOR MORE FRUIT. (USUALLY IT IS THE SEED THAT IS SOWN... BUT, HERE IT IS THE FRUIT THAT IS SOWN).
 - b. THAT <u>SUGGESTS</u> THAT AS WE <u>SHARE</u> THE <u>FRUIT</u> <u>OF GOD WITH</u>

 <u>OTHERS</u>, <u>THEY</u> ARE <u>FED</u> AND <u>SATISFIED</u>... AND <u>THEY</u> IN <u>TURN</u> <u>BEAR</u>

 <u>FRUIT</u> AND <u>SHARE</u> IT WITH <u>OTHERS</u>.
- 3. <u>EACH</u> OF OUR LIVES IS A LIFE OF <u>SOWING</u> AND <u>REAPING</u>... *AND*, WE <u>REAP JUST WHAT WE SOW</u>... WE <u>CAN'T SOW WEEDS</u> AND <u>PRAY</u> FOR A <u>CROP FAILURE</u>!!
 - a. <u>BELIEVERS</u> WHO <u>OBEY</u> <u>GOD'S</u> <u>WISDOM</u> <u>SOW</u> <u>RIGHTEOUSNESS</u>... <u>NOT</u>, <u>SIN</u>; THEY <u>SOW</u> <u>PEACE</u>, <u>NOT</u> <u>WAR</u>.
 - 1) <u>AND</u>... THE <u>LIFE</u> WE <u>CHOOSE</u> TO <u>LIVE</u> <u>ENABLES</u> THE <u>LORD</u> TO <u>BRING</u> <u>RIGHTEOUSNESS</u> AND <u>PEACE</u> AND <u>ENCOURAGEMENNT</u> <u>INTO</u> THE <u>LIVES</u> OF <u>OTHERS</u> <u>THROUGH</u> <u>US</u>!
- 4. WHO WE ARE IS WHAT WE LIVE... WHAT WE LIVE IS WHAT WE SOW...

 AND WHAT WE SOW DETERMINES WHAT WE REAP!!!
 - a. <u>IF</u> WE <u>LIVE</u> IN <u>GOD'S</u> <u>WISDOM</u>... WE <u>SOW</u> <u>RIGHTEOUSNESS</u> AND <u>PEACE</u> AND <u>ENCOURAGEMENT</u>... AND WE <u>REAP</u> <u>GOD'S</u> <u>BLESSINGS</u>.
 - b. <u>IF</u> WE <u>LIVE</u> IN <u>MAN'S</u> <u>WORLDLY</u> <u>WISDOM</u>... WE <u>SOW</u> <u>SIN</u>... AND WE <u>REAP</u> "<u>CONFUSION</u>/<u>DISORDER</u> <u>AND</u> <u>EVERY</u> <u>EVIL</u> <u>WORK</u>." = <u>TROUBLE</u>!
 - c. THE **CHOICE** IS **OURS**... **TROUBLE** OR **BLESSINGS**!!!
- 5. THE **CONSEQUENCES** OF **APPLYING GOD'S WISDOM THROUGH** OUR **TRIALS**.
 - A. TRIAL DEFINED: A "TRIAL" IN LIFE IS A DIFFICULT, UNPLEASANT, OR PAINFUL EXPERIENCE THAT TESTS A PERSON'S STRENGTH, RESILIENCE, AND FAITH... BUT CAN SERVE AS A CHALLENGE THAT CAN FOSTER GROWTH, PERSEVERANCE, AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT.

- 1. "TRIALS" CAN MANIFEST AS HARDSHIPS, OBSTACLES, OR SIGNIFICANT STRUGGLES, OFTEN LEADING TO A PERIOD OF TESTING AND PURIFICATION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL.
- B. <u>James 1:2-8</u> (NASB) "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."
- C. WHEN WE EXPERIENCE TRIALS... WE CAN ACTUALLY RECEIVE BLESSINGS AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY IF WE RESPOND BY APPLYING GOD'S WISDOM THROUGH THE TRIAL.
 - NOTE: THE EVIDENCES OF GOD'S WISDOM ARE: PEACE, HUMILITY,
 GENTLENESS, BEING REASONABLE/AGREEABLE, MERCY, GOOD WORKS,
 AND SINCERITY.
 - a. BECAUSE THERE ARE MOST OFTEN OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED IN OUR TRIALS WE SHOULD CHOOSE TO RESPOND TO THEM IN:
 HUMILITY, PEACE, GENTLENESS, BY BEING REASONABLE/
 AGREEABLE, MERCY, WITH GOOD WORKS, AND SINCERITY
 THROUGH THE TRIAL.
 - b. THAT MEANS WE ARE <u>CONTROLLED</u> <u>BY</u>: <u>PEACE</u>, <u>HUMILITY</u>, <u>GENTLENESS</u>, <u>BEING</u> <u>REASONABLE</u>/<u>AGREEABLE</u>, <u>MERCY</u>, <u>GOOD</u> <u>WORKS</u>, AND <u>SINCERITY</u>... <u>THROUGH</u> <u>OUR</u> <u>TRIALS</u>.
- D. THE RESULT: IF WE SOW RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE AND ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH THE TRIALS (THAT ARE SURE TO COME) IN OUR LIVES... WE WILL REAP GOD'S BLESSINGS!
 - 1. THEN, AND ONLY THEN, CAN WE HAVE AN ATTITUDE OF JOY THROUGH OUR TRIALS!
- 6. THE **CONSEQUENCES** OF **APPLYING MAN'S WISDOM THROUGH** OUR **TRIALS**.
 - A. <u>James 3:14-16</u> (NLT2) "But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind."

GOD'S WISDOM CONTRASTED WITH MAN'S WISDOM - JAMES 3:13-18

- B. THE "FLIP-SIDE" OF RESPONDING TO TRIALS WITH GOD'S WISDOM... IS TO REACT TO THE TRIALS (THAT ARE SURE TO COME) BY APPLYING MAN'S WISDOM (WHAT JAMES CALLS FALSE WISDOM) THROUGH THE TRIAL.
 - 1. THERE ARE <u>OFTEN OTHER</u> <u>PEOPLE</u> <u>INVOLVED</u> <u>IN OUR</u> <u>TRIALS</u> AND WE CAN <u>CHOOSE</u> TO <u>RESPOND</u> <u>TO THEM</u> <u>WITH</u>: <u>SELFISHNESS</u>, <u>STRIFE</u>/ <u>FRUSTRATION</u>, <u>ENVY</u>, <u>PRIDE</u>, AND <u>DECEIT</u>/<u>NOT</u> <u>BEING</u> <u>TRUTHFUL</u>.
- C. THE <u>RESULT</u>: <u>IF</u> WE <u>SOW</u> <u>SELFISHNESS</u>, <u>PRIDE</u>, <u>STRIFE</u>, AND <u>DECEIT</u>
 THROUGH THE <u>TRIALS</u> (THAT ARE <u>SURE TO COME</u>) IN OUR LIVES... WE
 <u>WILL REAP</u> "<u>DISORDER</u> AND <u>EVERY KIND</u> <u>OF</u> <u>EVIL</u>" = <u>TROUBLE</u>!
- D. <u>THEN</u>... WE WILL <u>FAIL</u> TO <u>GROW</u> <u>SPIRITUALLY</u> AND LATER WILL <u>MOST</u> <u>LIKELY FACE</u> THE <u>SAME</u> KIND OF <u>TRIAL</u>... <u>WITH</u> <u>A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULTY</u>!

7. **CONCLUSION**

- A. THE <u>CHOICE</u> IN <u>TRIALS</u> SEEMS <u>EASY</u> <u>IF</u> WE <u>CONSIDER</u> THE <u>RESULTS</u>... <u>BLESSING</u> OR <u>TROUBLE</u>.
 - 1. BUT... THE APPLICATION CAN BE DIFFICULT!
 - a. THAT'S <u>WHY</u> WE <u>ASK GOD</u> FOR <u>HIS HELP</u>.
 - 2. REMEMBER: NOT MAKING A DECISION IS MAKING A DECISION BY DEFAULT!
- 8. CHART: MAN'S WISDOM -vs- GOD'S WISDOM

| | The Unwise | The Wise |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Signs | 1. Bitter Jealousy 2. Selfish Ambition (3:14) | 1. Good Behavior 2. Gentle Deeds (3:13) |
| Characteristics | 1. Arrogant 2. Dishonest 3. Worldly 4. Natural 5. Demonic (3:14-15) | 1. Pure 2. Peaceable 3. Gentle 4. Reasonable 5. Merciful 6. Bountiful 7. Unwavering 8. Sincere (3:17) |
| Results | 1. Disorder 2. Every Evil (3:16) | 1. Righteousness 2. Peace (3:18) |

WORLD'S WISDOM (SELF ORIENTED)



GOD'S WISDOM (OTHER ORIENTED)

