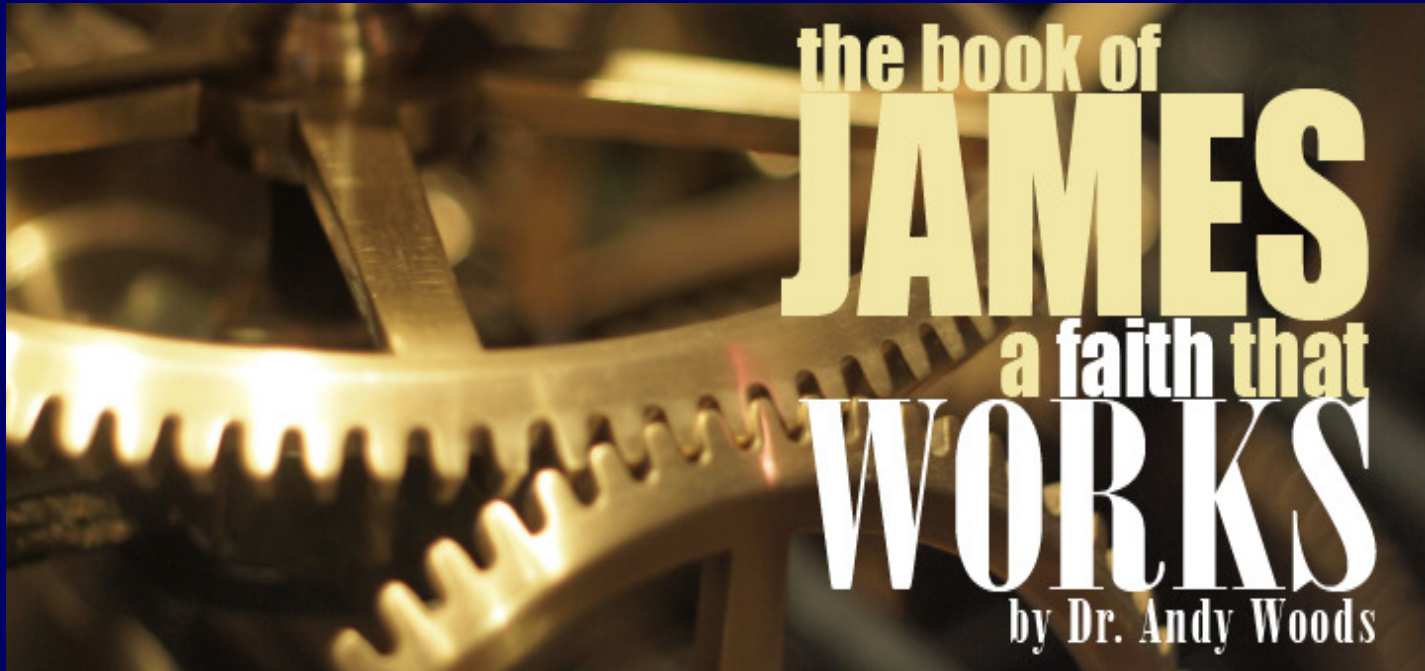


PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Answering Eleven Questions



- 1) Who wrote it? – James
- 2) What do we know about the author? – Christ's ½ Brother
- 3) Who was the audience? – Believing Jews in the Diaspora
- 4) Where was it written from? – Jerusalem
- 5) When was the book written? – A.D. 44–47
- 6) What was the book's occasion? – Practical righteousness
- 7) What is the book's purpose? – Achieving practical righteousness
- 8) What is the book about? – Practical righteousness
- 9) What is the book's theme? – Daily living
- 10) What makes the book different? – Practicality
- 11) How is the book organized? – Faith and Wisdom

JAMES STRUCTURE

- I. Faith (James 1:1–3:12)
- II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



JAMES STRUCTURE

- I. Faith (James 1:1–3:12)
- II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
 - ◆ Trials (1:2-18)
 - ◆ Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
 - ◆ Favoritism (2:1-13)
 - ◆ Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
 - ◆ Tongue (3:1-12)



JAMES STRUCTURE

- **Faith (1:1–3:12)**
 - ◆ **Trials (1:2-18)**
 - ◆ Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
 - ◆ Favoritism (2:1-13)
 - ◆ Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
 - ◆ Tongue (3:1-12)



James 1:2-18

- Trials – Jas 1:2-18
 - ◆ Rejoicing during trials – Jas 1:2-12
 - ◆ Command not to charge God with temptation – Jas 1:13-18



JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
 - ◆ Trials (1:2-18)
 - ◆ Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
 - ◆ Favoritism (2:1-13)
 - ◆ Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
 - ◆ Tongue (3:1-12)



Faith Obeys God

(James 1:19-27)

- I. Need for Slowness in Speaking & Anger (1:19-20)
- II. Need for Obedience to God's Word (1:21-25)
- III. Need for True Religion (1:26-27)



JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
 - ◆ Trials (1:2-18)
 - ◆ Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
 - ◆ Favoritism (2:1-13)
 - ◆ Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
 - ◆ Tongue (3:1-12)



Favoritism

(2:1-13)

- I. Command: no favoritism (2:1)
- II. Situation: favoritism in the assembly (2:2-3)
- III. Reasoning: favoritism is contrary to God's character & purposes (2:4-13)



JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
 - ◆ Trials (1:2-18)
 - ◆ Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
 - ◆ Favoritism (2:1-13)
 - ◆ Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
 - ◆ Tongue (3:1-12)



Faith Manifesting Works

(2:14-26)

- Thesis: works accompany useful faith (2:14)
- Five illustrations (2:15-26)
 1. Needy brother (2:15-17)
 2. Demonic monotheist (2:18-19)
 3. Abraham (2:20-24)
 4. Rahab (2:25)
 5. Lifeless corpse (2:26)



JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
 - ◆ Trials (1:2-18)
 - ◆ Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
 - ◆ Favoritism (2:1-13)
 - ◆ Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
 - ◆ Tongue (3:1-12)



Taming the Tongue

(3:1-12)

I. The Tongue's Influence (3:1-5)

A. Teaching (1)

B. All of Life (2)

C. Illustrations (3-5)



II. The Tongue's Evil Potential (3:6-12)

A. Satanic Potential (6)

B. Untamable (7-8)

C. Inconsistency (9-12)



JAMES STRUCTURE

I. Faith (James 1:1–3:12)

II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



Structure

■ Wisdom (3:13–5:20)

- ◆ Wisdom defined (3:13-18)
- ◆ Spirituality (4:1-12)
- ◆ Commerce (4:13-17)
- ◆ Use of wealth (5:1-6)
- ◆ Waiting for the Lord's return (5:7-12)
- ◆ Prayer (5:13-18)
- ◆ Restoration of the erring brother (5:19-20)



Structure

■ Wisdom (3:13–5:20)

◆ Wisdom defined (3:13-18)

◆ Spirituality (4:1-12)

◆ Commerce (4:13-17)

◆ Use of wealth (5:1-6)

◆ Waiting for the Lord's return (5:7-12)

◆ Prayer (5:13-18)

◆ Restoration of the erring brother (5:19-20)



Wisdom

(3:13-18)

- Wisdom is demonstrated by her actions (3:13)
- Human or earthly wisdom (3:14-16)
- Heavenly wisdom (3:17-18)



Wisdom

(3:13-18)

- Wisdom is demonstrated by her actions (3:13)
- Human or earthly wisdom (3:14-16)
- Heavenly wisdom (3:17-18)



James 3:13

“Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.”



James 3:13

“Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.”



Wisdom

(3:13-18)

- Wisdom is demonstrated by her actions (3:13)
- Human or earthly wisdom (3:14-16)
- Heavenly wisdom (3:17-18)



James 3:14-16

“¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.”



Human or Earthly Wisdom

(3:14-16)

- Jealous (Prov. 6:34)
- Selfish ambition (Prov. 16:18)
- Arrogant (Prov. 8:13)
- Earthly, natural (Prov. 14:12)
- Demonic (Prov. 27:20)
- Contentious (Prov. 11:29)



Mark 7:20-23

“²⁰ And He was saying, ‘That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²² deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. ²³ All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.’”



Galatians 5:19-23

“¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, ²⁰ idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”



Date

(AD 44-47)

- AD 70
- AD 62-63
- AD 49
- AD 48-49
- Sermon on the Mt
- Primitive congregational worship
(Jas 2:2; 3:1; 5:14)
- Jas 1:1 = Acts 8:1-4; 11:19



Order of Paul's Letters

1. Galatians (A.D. 49)
2. 1–2 Thessalonians (A.D. 51)
3. 1–2 Corinthians (A.D. 56)
4. Romans (A.D. 57)
5. Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians (A.D. 60–62)
6. 1 Timothy, Titus (A.D. 62–66)
7. 2 Timothy (A.D. 67)



James 3:14-16

“¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.”



Human or Earthly Wisdom

(3:14-16)

- Jealous (Prov. 6:34)
- Selfish ambition (Prov. 16:18)
- Arrogant (Prov. 8:13)
- Earthly, natural (Prov. 14:12)
- Demonic (Prov. 27:20)
- Contentious (Prov. 11:29)



James 3:14-16

“¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.”



Human or Earthly Wisdom

(3:14-16)

- Jealous (Prov. 6:34)
- **Selfish ambition (Prov. 16:18)**
- Arrogant (Prov. 8:13)
- Earthly, natural (Prov. 14:12)
- Demonic (Prov. 27:20)
- Contentious (Prov. 11:29)



James 3:14-16

“¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.”



Human or Earthly Wisdom

(3:14-16)

- Jealous (Prov. 6:34)
- Selfish ambition (Prov. 16:18)
- Arrogant (Prov. 8:13)
- Earthly, natural (Prov. 14:12)
- Demonic (Prov. 27:20)
- Contentious (Prov. 11:29)



Scripture and Pride

- Prov 16:18
- Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:12-17
- 1 Tim 3:6
- Acts 12:21-23
- 2 Cor 12:7
- 1 Pet 5:5



Hall of the Humbled

(Prov. 16:18; 1 Peter 5:5)

- Satan (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-17; 1 Tim. 3:6)
- Uzziah (2 Chron 26:16)
- Herod (Acts 12:20-23)
- Paul (2 Cor 12:1-10)



James 3:14-16

“¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.”



Human or Earthly Wisdom

(3:14-16)

- Jealous (Prov. 6:34)
- Selfish ambition (Prov. 16:18)
- Arrogant (Prov. 8:13)
- **Earthly, natural (Prov. 14:12)**
- Demonic (Prov. 27:20)
- Contentious (Prov. 11:29)



Ecclesiastes 1:9

“That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun.”



James 3:14-16

“¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.”



Taming the Tongue

(3:1-12)

I. The Tongue's Influence (3:1-5)

A. Teaching (1)

B. All of Life (2)

C. Illustrations (3-5)



II. The Tongue's Evil Potential (3:6-12)

A. Satanic Potential (6)

B. Untamable (7-8)

C. Inconsistency (9-12)



Human or Earthly Wisdom

(3:14-16)

- Jealous (Prov. 6:34)
- Selfish ambition (Prov. 16:18)
- Arrogant (Prov. 8:13)
- Earthly, natural (Prov. 14:12)
- Demonic (Prov. 27:20)
- Contentious (Prov. 11:29)



James 3:14-16

“¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.”



Human or Earthly Wisdom

(3:14-16)

- Jealous (Prov. 6:34)
- Selfish ambition (Prov. 16:18)
- Arrogant (Prov. 8:13)
- Earthly, natural (Prov. 14:12)
- Demonic (Prov. 27:20)
- **Contentious (Prov. 11:29)**



Wisdom

(3:13-18)

- Wisdom is demonstrated by her actions (3:13)
- Human or earthly wisdom (3:14-16)
- Heavenly wisdom (3:17-18)



James 3:17–18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



Heavenly Wisdom

(3:17-18)

- Pure (Prov. 15:26)
- Peaceable (Prov. 3:1-2)
- Gentle (Prov. 16:32)
- Reasonable (Prov. 14:15)
- Full of mercy and good fruits (Prov. 11:17; 3:18)
- Unwavering (Prov. 24:16)
- Without hypocrisy (Prov. 28:13)



James 3:17–18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



Heavenly Wisdom

(3:17-18)

- Pure (Prov. 15:26)
- Peaceable (Prov. 3:1-2)
- Gentle (Prov. 16:32)
- Reasonable (Prov. 14:15)
- Full of mercy and good fruits (Prov. 11:17; 3:18)
- Unwavering (Prov. 24:16)
- Without hypocrisy (Prov. 28:13)



James 3:17–18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



Heavenly Wisdom

(3:17-18)

- Pure (Prov. 15:26)
- Peaceable (Prov. 3:1-2)
- Gentle (Prov. 16:32)
- Reasonable (Prov. 14:15)
- Full of mercy and good fruits (Prov. 11:17; 3:18)
- Unwavering (Prov. 24:16)
- Without hypocrisy (Prov. 28:13)



Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.



James 3:17–18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



Heavenly Wisdom

(3:17-18)

- Pure (Prov. 15:26)
- Peaceable (Prov. 3:1-2)
- Gentle (Prov. 16:32)
- Reasonable (Prov. 14:15)
- Full of mercy and good fruits (Prov. 11:17; 3:18)
- Unwavering (Prov. 24:16)
- Without hypocrisy (Prov. 28:13)



James 3:13

“Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.”



James 3:17–18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



Heavenly Wisdom

(3:17-18)

- Pure (Prov. 15:26)
- Peaceable (Prov. 3:1-2)
- Gentle (Prov. 16:32)
- **Reasonable (Prov. 14:15)**
- Full of mercy and good fruits (Prov. 11:17; 3:18)
- Unwavering (Prov. 24:16)
- Without hypocrisy (Prov. 28:13)



James 3:17–18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



Heavenly Wisdom

(3:17-18)

- Pure (Prov. 15:26)
- Peaceable (Prov. 3:1-2)
- Gentle (Prov. 16:32)
- Reasonable (Prov. 14:15)
- Full of mercy and good fruits (Prov. 11:17; 3:18)
- Unwavering (Prov. 24:16)
- Without hypocrisy (Prov. 28:13)



James 3:17–18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



Heavenly Wisdom

(3:17-18)

- Pure (Prov. 15:26)
- Peaceable (Prov. 3:1-2)
- Gentle (Prov. 16:32)
- Reasonable (Prov. 14:15)
- Full of mercy and good fruits (Prov. 11:17; 3:18)
- Unwavering (Prov. 24:16)
- Without hypocrisy (Prov. 28:13)



James 3:17–18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



Heavenly Wisdom

(3:17-18)

- Pure (Prov. 15:26)
- Peaceable (Prov. 3:1-2)
- Gentle (Prov. 16:32)
- Reasonable (Prov. 14:15)
- Full of mercy and good fruits (Prov. 11:17; 3:18)
- Unwavering (Prov. 24:16)
- Without hypocrisy (Prov. 28:13)



CONCLUSION

Wisdom

(3:13-18)

- Wisdom is demonstrated by her actions (3:13)
- Human or earthly wisdom (3:14-16)
- Heavenly wisdom (3:17-18)



Structure

- Wisdom (3:13–5:20)
 - ◆ Wisdom defined (3:13-18)
 - ◆ Spirituality (4:1-12)
 - ◆ Commerce (4:13-17)
 - ◆ Use of wealth (5:1-6)
 - ◆ Waiting for the Lord's return (5:7-12)
 - ◆ Prayer (5:13-18)
 - ◆ Restoration of the erring brother (5:19-20)

