

Encounter these verses today:

(circle) words that you identify with, underline phrases or sentences you'd like to remember, write questions about the passage out to the side ...



James 3:13-187 [NIV] :: Live Wisely

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. ¹⁶For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

James 3:17-18 [The Message Paraphrase]

¹⁷⁻¹⁸Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

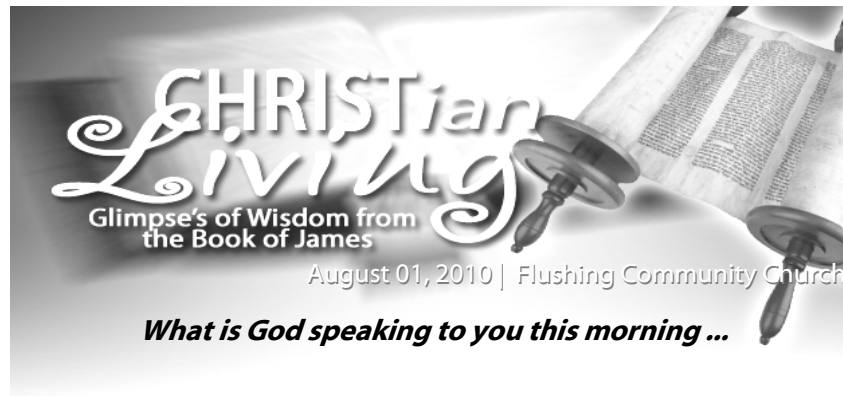
1 Corinthians 1:18-25 [NIV]

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;

the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

²⁰Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²²Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.



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Digging Deeper | 2010

[Engage the message throughout the week]

Monday: 8.02.2010

Reading: Psalm 104:23-15

We begin our week in the Book of Psalms. This poetic book stretches our imaginations and our ability to worship a God of great creativity and endless expression.

Think about it:

How big is God's wisdom? What limits can we put on it? The answer is simple ... we can't even begin to imagine!

Pray for: *Families: Murchie & Nancarrow*

Reflections: _____

Tuesday: 8.03.2010

Reading: 1 Corinthians 18-25

The celebration of baptism from Sunday was a great expression of God's upside down and inside out Kingdom. He go into a pond and express our love and devotion to God ... but really His is the One loving on us.

Think about it:

Think of the smartest person you know ... now consider their understanding against that of God's. How foolish are we?

Pray for: *Families: Nelson & Novotny*

Reflections: _____

Wednesday: 8.04.2010

Reading: James 1:19; 26; 4:11-12; 16; 5:9; 12

In the space below, write down what James says we should act like if we want to live a wise life. Each verse above speaks of a virtue or of a way that is pleasing to God.

Think about it:

How are you doing in your normal, everyday life? What are some ways you can improve your attitudes and actions so that they are pleasing to God?

Pray for: *Families: O'Brien & Ogles-Campbell*

Reflections: _____

Thursday: 8.05.2010

Reading: James 1:5-8

How do we solve our lack of wisdom? Read more books? Memorize more scriptures? Listen to more podcasts or preachers on TV? All of these things are good ... but many times they will lead to greater confusion if God is not in the center of our pursuit.

Think about it:

Practice James 1:5 today. Ask God today for your wisdom and deeper understanding. It might just surprise you with what you hear Him say.

Pray for: *Families: Ostrander & Pavia*

Reflections: _____

Friday: 8.06.2010

Reading: James 1:13-18

Pastor Steve mentioned a couple weeks ago that "trials" are much different than "temptations." Trials come from God and will strengthen our walk and relationship with God. Temptations come from our enemy and are meant to trip us up and distract us from God's perfect plan for our lives.

Think about it:

James warns us that allowing temptation to take root in us will lead us toward sin. Is there a temptation giving you fits today?

Pray for: *Families: Piechowski & Pittsley*

Reflections: _____

Saturday: 8.07.2010

Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

God is our hero. He comes in at that moment in time when we need Him the most. He is rarely early - but He's never late.

Think about it:

If you find yourself struggling today with a temptation, you need to give it to God in prayer. He will be faithful. He will be true. And He will guide you out of your difficult situation. You won't break as long as you call out on Him!

Pray for: *Families: Plude & Poindexter*

Reflections: _____

