

/Greetings./ Let's begin with the 3rd lecture on the book of James.

/The title of the chapter three is peace.

/First, teachers will receive much stricter judgments. / Verse 1/ Second, be a person who is flawless in speech./ Verses 2-12/ Third, earthly wisdom./ Verses 13-16/ Fourth, wisdom from heaven./ Verses 17-18

/In verse 1,/ *who teach will be judged more strictly.* / *Who will teach* refers to/ the person who is arrogant and rebuking./ Who sits in the place of arrogance/ and ruthlessly criticizes other people's behaviors/ as if he is their master.

/God has placed elders and teachers at church./ So it is incorrect for all the people to become like teachers./ In particular, what does it mean to become *who teach*?

/First,/ Those are the people who are self-righteous,/ self-declaredly holy,/ and arrogant./ Second,/ those are the people who embarrass other people's weaknesses./ Third,/ those are the people who ruthlessly rebuke and act strictly.

/Fourth,/ those are the people who intrude other Christian's freedom and judge them by petty things./ Fifth,/ those are the people who simply consider facts/ without considering love./ Not every evil has to be exposed.

/Sixth,/ those are the people who exalt and/ emphasize themselves by rebuking others./ These things happen because everybody desires to be teachers./ Such people will receive much stricter judgment.

/In verse 2,/ *We all stumble in many ways. / If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man.* / We must be careful after we see we are full of mistakes./ We must be gentle in rebuking others.

/We must continually ask for the grace of God,/ continually praise God,/ and not be despaired by our failures./ Also, we must mourn about us not being able to fully commit to the service of the Lord when we were being servants of Satan.

/The Bible tells us to guard our tongue./ Proverbs 18:21/ Matthew 12:37/ Proverbs 13:3/ Proverbs 17:27/ Psalms 15:3/ When we speak,/ we must have a pure heart.

/Also, we must be careful in speaking./ We must come in front of God./ We must use our tongues for the holy things./ Proverbs 15:7/ Psalms 39:1/ Psalms 141:3/ Ephesus 4:29

/Therefore, we must let go of filthy,/ silly,/ or impropriety speeches and/ speak the words of gratefulness,/ gracefulness/ and holiness./ It is written, *if anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man.*

/It is also written, *able to keep his whole body in check.* / The *perfect man* in verse 2 does not refer to the state of being 100% perfect/ but simply indicates the state of growth/ and maturity in the Christian faith.

/In verse 3,/ *When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.* / In verse 4, *Or take ships as an example... they are*

steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go/ Therefore, being restrained to some extent is the grace of God.

*/In verse 5,/ Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts./The phrase *but it makes great boasts/* is used to express arrogance or vanity.*

/Due to one's arrogance, the tongue may be misused./ Just like a small fire burns numerous trees,/ such small tongue can/ lead us to the road of destruction./ Proverbs 17:4/ Proverbs 18:6/ Pagans can enter in a small scale, but it may spoil the entire body.

*/In verse 6,/ the tongue is also a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body./ This explains that even though a tongue is small, the influence or harm it does is enormous./ It is also written,/ *It corrupts the whole person./* This means that a tongue may pollute the entire person with a sin/ and clothe him with it.*

*/A tongue is usually used to indicate wrath or violence./ *It sets the whole course of his life on fire, /* The *whole course of life* refers to the entire course of our lives.*

/Here a tongue is compared to the fire./ And as the fire is hot,/ a tongue is turned up when we are furious./ And when a house is on fire, it ruins the entire house./ A tongue also creates a conflict and destroys among people.

*/Also, it is written, *and is itself set on fire by hell./*Hence, if we misuse our tongue,/ it becomes the tool of evil sin,/ and it makes us fall into sin and/ tempt others./ It defiles as well./ It defiles through/ gross conversation or filthy greed.*

/In verse 7,/ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man./Such animals or insects become obedient once they are tamed./ However, humans do not be tamed./ Proverbs 16:32

*/In verse 8, it is written, *but no man can tame the tongue./* This tells us that it cannot be controlled by itself. /It is again written that *It is a restless evil,/ full of deadly poison./*It referred to the uncontrollable evil.*

/For this reason, even though we cannot control our tongue,/ or even though it is difficult to do so with our capabilities,/ we must put bits into our mouth./ And this can be done by God./ Matthew 19:26/ Moreover, if God grants us the heart of believing we can do it, He will give the capabilities to accomplish it./ We must fight against the sin.

*/In verse 9,/ *With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father,/ and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness./*The proper usage of tongue is to praise God./ Psalms 51:15/ Ephesus 5:4/ Psalms 145:10/ Psalms 34:1*

/God gives us the ability to speak/ and He must receives the glory from us./ God is our father./ We can praise Him most joyfully when we regard Him as our father.

/Curses must not come from our mouth./ Would we pray and quarrel with someone with the same tongue?/ Would we curse and praise with the same tongue?/ Would it be possible to talk to God and lift fires of hell?

/We Christians were created followed by the image of God./ We were created in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness./ Col. 3:10/ Ecc. 7:29/ Eph. 4:24/ The image that was lost due to sin/ has been restored in Christ.

/It is a great privilege to have the likeness of God./ So we must not damage or/ make the image of God be ridiculed.

/We must remember that other people are also created in the image of God,/ and stop slandering others./ Col. 3:10/ Eph. 4:24/ Mat. 25:40/ Prov. 17:5

/We Christians must value other people/ and refrain the hurtful or foul words to other people.

/In verse 10,/ *Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing./ My brothers, this should not be./* Those two cannot come together./ This passage urges us to live according to the God's will/ not by our thoughts of flesh.

/In verse 11,/ *Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?/* One causation can only result to one outcome./ That is natural./ An outcome can only be something that was made inside.

/Words show one's and they come out from the things that were made inside of us./ We must be careful enough not to let curse come out from us./ In Matthew 5:19, there is a *great person* and *least person*./ Whoever obeys the commandments of God becomes the great man,/ and whoever disobeys will be the least one.

/In verse 12,/ *My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs?/* In such way, it is also written, *Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water./* We must look out not to praise and curse with the same mouth.

/In verse 13,/ *Who is wise and understanding among you?/* Prov. 8:13/ True wisdom is the fearing of God./ The fearing of God is hating the evil.

/A man with wisdom and understanding serves Jesus with all his heart/ and lives according to His joyful will./ Hence, we should completely turn down false wisdoms.

/The false wisdom refers to the earthly wisdom./ Jer. 8:9/ It is someone satisfied with humanistic knowledge./ Rom. 1:22/ They are the ones who plot evil doings./ 1 Cor. 14:20

/Here in verse 13, *Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom./* Truer the wisdom is, more humble it is./ It does not show anger./ Prov. 27:3/ Prov. 19:11/ Prov. 17:12

/He judges with wisdom,/ thinks he is a man with numerous mistakes,/ and sees that he is in need of forgiveness.

/He is more humble in front of God./ So we ought to honor God/ and do things that can be set as an example to other people.

/In verse 14,/ *But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it/* We must not boast ourselves.

/Things that belong to true wisdom may be: humility and good deeds,/ while the opposites of true wisdom are envy and quarrel./ Here, envy is displayed through many forms./ It despises other people's joy./ Rather, it rejoices the shame or destruction of other people.

/Additionally, there is a disengagement in communications./ People tend to trap some things in their boundaries and territories./ The reason that people dislike God's blessings given to the general is that they want to be exalted themselves alone.

/Such envy is a complaint feeling when someone else become successful,/ specifically towards their social ranks or reputations./ It is unpleasant when someone else becomes successful,/ and it is pleasant when someone else fails./ Also, there is a quarrel when there is envy./ 1 Cor. 3:3/ Gal. 5:20/ That was the case of Cain and Abel./ Gen. 37:4,11/ 1 Sam. 19:9/ Mat. 27:18

/Envy and greed are sins./ Priests handed over Jesus due to their envy/ and sold Him due to their greed.

/Envy represents that such man has a poor nature./ When envy takes over, his moral character is destroyed./ Envy is deeply rooted in our evil nature./ Also, envy is the first emotion that surfaces among babies.

/Moreover, for envy regards the receiving of the gift of God as unfair,/ it is an insult against the providence of God./ Envy is harmful to other people as well.

/Envy originates from arrogance and/ evil desire and it ends with/ unsatisfactory state.

/In verse 15,/ *It is written, Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but/ is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.* Even though it is in the disguise of wisdom and eagerness,/ it is from the devil/ and from the corrupted heart of men.

/Earthly means that it is well fitted with worldly people./ And it is used to achieve earthly purposes./ It is lustful as well./ If a man is left alone, he only bears the fruit of flesh.

/It solely desires the comfort and pleasure of this world./ And the devil harms us as well./ John 8:44/ 1 John 2:16/ Eve was tempted./ In Genesis 3:6, it *was good for food/ and pleasing to the eye,/ and also desirable for gaining wisdom.*

/Good for food refers to the cravings of a sinful man,/ the evil desire of this world./ Pleasing to the eye refers to the lust of the eyes./ It indicates reputation.

/Desirable for gaining wisdom means/ the boasting of what he has done or does./ We must throw away these things./ In Titus 2:12, it is written *to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives.*

/This earthly wisdom has no benefit for us./ For Christians to receive the inheritance of heaven,/ we must be wise.

/In verse 16,/ *For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.* Envy is an evil thing./ But the wisdom from heaven is not.

/In verse 17,/ it talks about *the wisdom that comes from heaven.*/It is written, *is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*

/In verse 18,/ *Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.* Let's look at this one by one.

/First, it is *pure.* Purity is the state where one is not mixed/ or adulterated by anything./ For instance, it is like unpolluted water .

/Regarding the purity,/ first, there is a cleanliness in the heart and lifestyle./ Matthew 5:8/ Matthew 5:28/ It is written, it is without a double-minded heart.

/Second, it does not accept adulterated things by sin or evil fruits./ 2 Peter 2:20/ Third, it is pure in words and deeds./ Ephesus 5:4/ Fourth, is evangelically and morally pure/ and morally pure./ And fifth, it avoids the forms of filthiness./ 2 Cor. 7:1

/We must keep our mind and thought from sin,/ and likewise protect our body from sin.

/Secondly, *peace-loving*/1 Thessalonians 3:16/ 1 Cor. 14:33/ Christians must pursue for peace/ and eager harmony among themselves.

/First, Christians are peaceful people./ They do not harm other people/ and forgive the harms done by others instead of retaliation./ Also, they exert efforts for the peace in society or at church./ Rom. 12:18/ 2 Thess. 3:16

/The second aspect of *peace-loving*: Christians are the people who achieve peace./ Proverbs 16:17/ Here the peace refers to the peace in truth./ Peace that has lost truth is unjust.

/There is an association of world churches called WCC./ What this claims is this: to unite as one./ They claim the unity of Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and every other religion as one.

/The peace that Jesus insists is not such peace./ It refers to the peace in the truth, in Christ./ People who are outside of Christ are people of unbelief/ and they are the group of darkness./ But how can light mingle with darkness?

/Hence, if one member of the family has a different faith, they cannot be one./ That's why Jesus said *If anyone comes to me/ and does not hate ~~this~~ father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.*

/Luther once said,/ ""what I am after in this dispute is to me something serious, necessary, and indeed eternal, something of such a kind and such importance that

it ought to be asserted and defended to the death, even if the whole world had not only to be thrown into strife and confusion, but actually to return to total chaos and be reduced to nothingness." / It proves that love for the truth and the truth itself was not lost in him./ What good is there if we unite without the truth?

/Third, *generosity*./ We must be considerate of rebuking others,/ and in thoughts./ It does not distort the thoughts of oneself and the others.

/Regarding a man to be more evil than he actually is/ is not indoctrinating a person but embarrassing one./ The third aspect of generosity, should include consideration in relationships./ It is giving up our rights for the sake of peace.

/Fourth, it is *submissiveness*./ Submissiveness refers to the character being docile and gentle./ The first aspect of submissiveness is being sincere in all things,/ and accepting/ other's reasonable favors with humbleness.

/We must listen to the cries of the poor./ Second aspect is, conceding other's persuasive words./ Ezekiel 36:26/ And it is a heart that humbly accepts instructions./ Generally, people tend to reject other people's advice or confrontations.

/In particular, there are a lot of people who reject the Word of God./ The third aspect is, accepting certain person's advice/ when they have better ideas than I.

/There are my opinions, and other's./ If a person thinks, "others have better opinions than I do."/ If this happens, we should humbly and submissively accept others' opinions.

/The fourth aspect is, not being overly agitated to lose one's rationality during the debate./ There are moments where we assert ourselves and start to quarrel/ because we lost our control in conversations.

/But submissiveness is/ not being agitated to lose one's control./ Submissiveness is talking/ one's opinions calmly/ and skillfully/ without neglecting other people.

/Fifth, it is *full of mercy*./ It is doing good to the people who have done wrong deeds to us./ And it is forgiving those people's mistakes./ It is also showing mercy to the poor./ Proverbs 19:11/ Col. 3:12-13

/We must be able to show mercy to others./ In Matthew 25,/ to the sheep on the right side, Jesus said, *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,/ I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,/ I was sick and you looked after me,/ I was in prison and you came to visit me.*

/Helping others/ are all for our Lord./ Wisdom in heaven/ is naturally expressed by forgiving others with mercy/ and showing love to those who are poor.

/The sixth is *good fruit*./ The word "good fruit" refers to the fruit of love, kindness, joy, and mercy.

/And the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit can be included in here./ The fruit of Spirit is love, joy, peace/ patience, kindness, goodness,/ faithfulness, gentleness and self-control./ They are almost the same as the fruits described in the verse 17.

| /The seventh is *impartial*./ "Impartial" means/ ~~to~~ not to discriminate people by their appearances.

/As we have discussed in chapter two, treating kindly to the rich/ while neglecting the poor/ is not from the wisdom from heaven./ 2 Cor. 5:16/ Ecc. 7:21

/In church, it must always be fair./ In the world, it is possible to receive bribe and have a unfair trial but/ in the church of our Lord, it must never happen./ We must be fair to all people.

| /Whether a person is rich or poor,/ old or young,/ male or female,/ Korean or Chinese, or/ British or whatever the nationality and wherever that person is from,/ we must not discriminate people by their appearances./ We must equally treat all people.

/Eighth,/ it is *sincerity*./ Wisdom from heaven only consists of light./ 1 Tim. 1:5/ 2 Tim. 1:5/ 1 John 3:18

/In verse 18,/ *Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness*./ The phrase *raise a harvest of righteousness*/ recognizes the characteristic of the effort they exert.

/A person who sows in peace/ bears the fruit of eternal life or sanctification./ We must raise a harvest of righteousness./ First, the truth must be our center of interest in everything we do./ Also, when we obey the Word of God,/ we must act it for the glory of God.

/Second, we must be cautious not to envy./ Envy is written to be worldly, satanic, and lustful./ Due to envy, raising a harvest of righteousness becomes impossible.

/Third, we must put our hope in God./ We must now go to the place of peace./ We must leave sin and be in peace with God,/ and be in peace with people./ This is what God requires of us.

/God forgave our entire sin through/ sending His only son, Jesus Christ./ God opens the way to approach Him.

/Therefore, we must be in peace with God through approaching nearer to Him/ and receive the grace of God./ And by receiving that grace,/ we must be the person who shows love to all other people.

/If there is a wall that blocks other people,/ we must reconcile with others/ and be eager to be one in Christ./ This is what God delights to see./ Once we do this, we raise a harvest of righteousness.

/In conclusion, we must try to be flawless in speech,/ and try to live a life which worldly things do not surface./ Also, we must live with the wisdom from heaven.

/This is the end of the third lecture on the book of James.
/God bless you.