

The Tests of a Wise Person

James 3:13-18*

A key to right talk is right thought. The tongue is contained in a cage of teeth and lips, but it still escapes. It is not intelligence that keeps the lock on that cage; it is wisdom— James now discusses the difference between true wisdom and false. When he speaks about wisdom, he is not thinking of how much *knowledge* a person has, but how he *lives* his life from day to day. It is not the possession of knowledge but the proper application of it that counts. We have here a portrait of the truly wise person and we have also a portrait of the worldly-wise person.

The problem: Are you a wise person? (3:13)

The portrait of a person exploiting worldly wisdom (3:14-16)

The portrait of a person exercising Heavenly wisdom (3:17-18)

Select verses on “Wisdom” in Proverbs

- [Prov 1:2](#) To know [wisdom](#) and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding,
- [Prov 1:7](#) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise [wisdom](#) and instruction.
- [Prov 2:2](#) Make your ear attentive to [wisdom](#), Incline your heart to understanding;
- [Prov 2:6](#) For the LORD gives [wisdom](#); From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding.
- [Prov 2:7](#) He stores up sound [wisdom](#) for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk in integrity,
- [Prov 2:10](#) For [wisdom](#) will enter your heart And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
- [Prov 3:13](#) How blessed is the man who finds [wisdom](#) And the man who gains understanding.
- [Prov 4:11](#) I have directed you in the way of [wisdom](#); I have led you in upright paths.
- [Prov 8:11](#) “For [wisdom](#) is better than jewels; And all desirable things cannot compare with her.
- [Prov 9:10](#) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of [wisdom](#), And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- [Prov 15:33](#) The fear of the LORD is the instruction for [wisdom](#), And before honor *comes* humility.
- [Prov 16:16](#) How much better it is to get [wisdom](#) than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.
- [Prov 17:16](#) Why is there a price in the hand of a fool to buy [wisdom](#), When he has no sense?
- [Prov 17:24](#) [Wisdom](#) is in the presence of the one who has understanding, But the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.
- [Prov 18:4](#) The words of a man’s mouth are deep waters; The fountain of [wisdom](#) is a bubbling brook.
- [Prov 19:8](#) He who gets [wisdom](#) loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good.

* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God’s Word.