

Date: June 14, 2026

Title: Divine Wisdom: The Remedy for the Troubled Mind

Passage: James 3:12-18

Speaker: Dan Paul, Pastor of Cleveland Romanian Baptist Church.

Key Truths:

- Divine wisdom is rooted in the Word of God.
- Draw near to God. Respond to God's invitation to know Him in a personal way. Turn your life to His control.
- Always be mindful of who God is and what He has done. We live humbly under God's grace and mercy.
- Only God is in control over our lives.
- Personal knowledge of knowing Christ in a personal way is what is eternal.
- Turn to God to His wisdom (know Christ, follow Christ, imitate Christ,)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

The greatest pressures we experience are of the mind.

- But our faith is forged during times of trial as we are sustained by God.

Be Champions for Christ

- Stick with the faith in Christ. Do not be afraid.
- Be a servant for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Know your identity and where you stand in the face of persecution / trials.

Passage:

James 3:12-18

Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and

good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

EXPOSITION

The Troubled Mind

- we all face difficult trials, especially in our minds.
- As a Christian, you will face trials.
 - But we can face them with joy.

James 1:2-3

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

- If you choose to follow the voice of God, you will have peace in the midst of trials.
 - Listen to the voice of God. Your eternity will be in heaven with Him.
 - But if you obey the things of this world, eternity is in hell.
- Divine wisdom is rooted in the Word of God.

Question: Do you believe that God is good?

- In trial, it is how God molds you for His purposes into the image of Christ.

God knows what troubles you.

- He wants you to draw near Him to know Him.

God is a loving, kind God.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

The Double-Minded Person

- it is unstable.

James 1:8

he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 3:11-12

Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

James 4:4

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. What should be done instead?

- Turn to God.

James 4:8

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

- Draw near to God
 - Respond to God's invitation to know Him in a personal way.
 - Turn your life to His control.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- Look to the cross of Christ.
 - Look to him as your Savior (not as Judge, to whom all will have to give account)

Confess your sins to God

- "Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts"

1 John 3:20-21

for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

- Come before God with your sins.

Humility

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

- Always be mindful of who God is and what He has done.
 - We live humbly under God's grace and mercy.

Your life is fragile and quickly passing.

James 4:14

yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

- You do not control the days or seasons of your life.
 - You have never been in control.

Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

James 4:15

Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

- Only God is in control over our lives.
- Personal knowledge of knowing Christ in a personal way is what is eternal.
- Turn to God to His wisdom (know Christ, follow Christ, imitate Christ,)