

Small Group Discussion 2/27/2022

The Wise Believer Will Have Self-Control and Resist Worldly Impulses

– sermon by Dr. John Martin
James 3 & 4

Getting Started

- Given that we all stumble in what we say, and teachers will be judged with greater strictness, why would anyone be willing to be a teacher?

Static Questions

- **WHAT IS THE PASSAGE ABOUT?**
 - Note the key details (Who, What, When, Where, Why, etc.)
 - Pay attention to the main Facts of the passage.
- **WHAT DID YOU LEARN?**
 - What does the passage reveal about God? About people?
 - Is there a promise or a command or a warning?
 - What is the main truth of the passage?
 - What lessons do you see?
- **HOW WILL YOU APPLY IT?**
 - How does this passage relate to your life right now?
 - What change in your thinking or behavior is needed to align with the truths in this passage?
 - How should you respond based on what you learned?

Discussion

- Dr. Martin mentioned that there are varying views of what it means to be "filled with the Spirit." In his view, the filling is more a *result* or *characterization* of obedience than a *cause* of obedience. Can you think of arguments for and against this view, especially from the context of James?
- Can you think of instances where you yourself tend to stumble in what you say? How would you grow in that area? How would you encourage someone else to grow in that area?
- Dr. Martin emphasized that cursing is not necessarily a matter of using profanity. How would you characterize this broader application of the word? In other words, what kinds of things might constitute "cursing"?
- The text refers to control by bridle bits and rudders (3:3-4), but today's sermon title refers to "self-control." How does self-control fit in this picture?
- How is worldly wisdom different than heavenly wisdom, and what are the results of each?
- What is the difference between discernment and judgment?
- Dr. Martin mentioned that in church circles, we tend to think of "living in sin" as sexual immorality. James four uses words that would tend to reinforce that (e.g., passions, adulterous). But does James really emphasize sexual immorality in this passage?