**James 3:13-18:** This reading in James give a strong contract between what is from below (demonic) and what is wisdom from above.

We are members of the Oak Ridge church of Christ. We call ourselves Christians ([**Acts 11:26**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%2011:26)) and we hold to the Bible as our one and only Truth. Church of Christ is a biblical description of Christians who work together for the cause of Christ ([**Ro. 16:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%2016:16)). We are independent assemblies with no organization beyond our own number as described in [**Phil. 1:1**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Philippians%201:1). There are Christians across the world working with local congregations of God’s people such as described in [**Rev. 2**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%202)**-3**. Christians are members of Christ’s body, which is also known as His Church ([**Acts 2:47**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%202:47)**,**[**Eph. 5:23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%205:23)). Our mission is to stand for God’s truth (the gospel) and teach it to all people ([**Matt. 28:18-20**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Matthew%2028:18-20)**,**[**Romans 1:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%201:16)**,**[**1 Tim. 3:15**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=1%20Timothy%203:15)). We are accountable to our one and only Head Jesus Christ ([**Eph. 1:22-23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%201:22-23)**,**[**Col. 1:18**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Colossians%201:18)).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Demonic (James 3:14-16)** | **Wisdom from Above (James 3:17-18)** |
| Bitter Envy | **Pure** |
| Self-seeking | **Peaceable** |
| Selfish Ambition | **Gentle** |
| Earthly | **Willing to Yield** |
| Sensual | **Full of Mercy & Good Fruits** |
| Confusion | **Without Partiality** |
| Every Evil Thing | **Without Hypocrisy** |

Tonight we would like to focus on those things that come from God’s wisdom from above.

**Pure -** Without anything bad – pure honey, pure gold, spring water – the pure Word of God

**(Matthew 5:8, 1 Timothy 1:5, 2 Timothy 2:22, 1 Peter 1:22-23, 2:1-3)**

**Peaceable or peace-loving -** The last few years we have witnessed a lot of violence - those who want to punish those in opposition – 9-11-2001. **(Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:18, 1 Timothy 2:2, Titus 3:1-2, Hebrews 12:11)** “Peaceable fruit of righteousness” – related to Good Fruits.

**Gentle or Considerate –** When you are gentle, you are always considering the needs of other’s.

**(Matthew 11:29, Philippians 2:3-4, 2 Timothy 2:24-26, 1 Peter 3:3-4)**

**Willing to Yield -** The phrase “willing to yield” captures a lot of things. From the Greek and various translations: to comply with, obey, easily obeying, compliant, easy to be entreated, open to reason, submissive **(Acts 5:29 & 32, Ephesians 5:18-21, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 5:5)**

**Full of Mercy and Good Fruits –** Our congregation in Oak Ridge is full of good examples of this – When a need arises, many are already meeting those needs!

**(Matthew 5:7, Luke 3:8, 6:36, Philippians 1:8-11)**

**Without Partiality or Favoritism - Impartial –** “seeing faces” - Color blind, social status blind – Jessie and Samantha – dark skinned – Dion **(Acts 10:34-35, Romans 2:11, James 2:1-4)**

**Without Hypocrisy or Sincere –** Simply being honest and true in our daily lives

**(Mark 7:6, Luke 12:1, Romans 12:9-16)**

**CLOSE: James 3:18 – “Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”**

**READ 1 Peter 3:8-12**

Children of God are to be pursuing peace with each other, with others in the world as much as is possible, and with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! If you are not a child of God tonight, it is time for you to make peace with your Maker. Confess that Jesus is the Son of God, repent of your sins, and be baptized to wash them all away **(Matthew 28:18-20).** Being at Peace with God will give you a rewarding life now and eternal life one day!

We invite all in our audience to our Bible studies on Wednesday at 7pm and Sunday morning at 9am. We would love to study God’s together with you! Please check the scriptures we have covered tonight. We want to help you in any way we can. Contact us for Bible studies by telephone, e-mail, or simply come to one of our assemblies. Contact: We assemble at 225 North Purdue Ave. in Oak Ridge at 9am on Sundays and 7pm on Wednesdays; oakridgechurch.com; david.barry@oakridgechurch.com, murray.wade@oakridgechurch.com; (865) 693-1416.

We plan to have a re-airing of this program on Monday, March 20, 2023. Our next live program is planned for April 3, 2023 when we plan to study “**The Blood of Jesus**” We hope to see you next time on **"Speaking The Truth In Love".**