

## WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

### LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 11 October 2009

Walk the walk – James 3.13 -18

You might like to start the session by writing down something positive and encouraging about each other and then pass on, or share, what you have written.

Last week we were made aware of the dangers a 'loose' or 'untamed' tongue presents and were challenged to listen twice as much as we speak and to say positive and encouraging things, how have each of us done with this?

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Socrates, who died about 400 B.C. refused to be called *sophos* – the Greek word for 'wise' – because he felt that such a claim would be blasphemous. Instead, he preferred the name *philosophus*, which means 'a lover of wisdom'.

#### Read Job 12: 12 - 13

- Why do you think Socrates considered it blasphemous to claim to be wise?

#### Read James 3: 13a

- James asks 'Who is wise.. etc?' So if the origin of wisdom is not ourselves, or even our parents (genes or upbringing), how would you answer James' question if someone you knew claimed to be wise?
- Where would you encourage someone to go who was seeking wisdom, and why?

#### Read Proverbs 3:1-8

- Solomon, like James, believes that the wisdom he advocates stems from certain things, briefly what are they?

#### Read James 3: 13b-18

So, Godly wisdom is attainable for the 'lover of God' who is also the 'lover of wisdom.' James now looks at the outworking of this 'faith' issue.

- Why does James particularly emphasise our life and deeds? (v. 13b)

James is clear there is no middle road when it comes to the source of our 'wisdom', it either comes from God or the devil. It's either good or evil.

- How do you feel about such a stark choice?
- Work through v.14 – 16 and identify and comment on what is revealed here
- Now work through v. 17 – 18 and identify and comment on this and the harvest it raises
- Which seems best to you and why?
- What difference would it make if you started to apply what you see now to your life (be as specific as you can)?

#### Have a period of quiet reflection - Read Psalm 51: 1 – 17

Prayerfully ask God the Holy Spirit to purge you of your sins and equip you with the wisdom from above, and to give you the power to live for Christ in the world in the coming week and beyond.