

LOCAL

'Heavenly wisdom' greater than 'earthly knowledge'

The most educated people I know are also the most humble. It may not make much sense, I suspect, but the fact is that learning not only expands what we know; it also makes us more aware of what we don't know, and this may be the essential difference between knowledge and wisdom.

In the New Testament book of James we find some additional advice on the nature of knowledge and wisdom. In James 3:13-18, for example, we encounter a contrast between two specific kinds of wisdom. One of these is what James describes as "earthly" wisdom. This kind of wisdom is characterized by "bitter envy and selfish ambition."

One can't help but wonder how it is that anybody could ever consider envy and ambition examples of wise behavior? Perhaps the answer is found in our yearning to win - to have the most money, to build the biggest corporation, or to acquire the most power. It is basically a self-centered kind of knowledge that chooses such things as its primary focus, and this kind of wisdom definitely breeds envy and ambition.

Yet, in our contemporary world we tend to view with praise the people whose shrewdness enables them to

have the most and be the biggest, and we also tend to envy them because deep down we really want what they have.

We, too, want to have the kind of "earthly wisdom" that propels us to positions of prominence.

Such an attitude is evident among believers as well. In my own denomination, for example, I have listened to a number of

nomination speeches that were designed to extol certain pastors as equipped for denominational leadership, and the one quality that has been held up above all others is the ability of a pastor to

cause the membership of his church to grow. Even believers, it seems, are susceptible to the false assumption that bigger is always better.

Over against such earthly, self-centered wisdom, James suggests that there is another, more desirable kind of wisdom. According to James, this is a wisdom that "comes from heaven;" a wisdom considered "peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

It is obvious that the wisdom of which James writes is not head knowledge. He is not talking about being smart; he's talking about being wise. The kind of wisdom that James has in mind is not an IQ to have

but a life skill to learn. It isn't about serving my own ambitions but about serving the needs of others. According to James, then, a wise person is not someone who knows a lot, but someone who practices a peace-loving, considerate, merciful and sincere style of life.

In addition, since true wisdom is "heavenly" wisdom, it makes sense to believe that wisdom is not something we conjure up all by ourselves. After all, if it is heavenly wisdom, then it is wisdom that rests in God, and we need to seek God in order to have it.

Dr. Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.



Jeff Hensley Meditation

CHURCH BRIEFS

Kingdom Life Covenant Church Youth Department is hosting a summer camp and two summer enrichment programs for ages 4-18 until August 22. For more information contact Kingdom Life at 704-734-0082 or Marlene at 704-914-8999 or send email to klcministries@yahoo.com.

Registration for Upward Soccer is underway at Patterson Grove Baptist Church, 301 Oak Grove Road. Registration is available for ages 4-6th grade. Registration before July 22 is \$45, from July 23 until the August 2 deadline it will cost \$55. For more information, call the church office at 704-739-5826 or Mike Harris at 704-853-1174 (day) and 704-739-6023 (evening).

Eastside Baptist Church, 308 York Road, will be beginning a Beth Moore Ladies Bible Study on Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at 6 p.m. All ladies are welcome to join. For more information, call 704-739-6757.

Kingdom Life Covenant Church, 114 S. Railroad Avenue, will be hosting two workshops: "Parenting God's Way" at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, and "Financial Freedom" at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29. Registration for workshops is available now. For more information, call the church at 704-734-0082 or Marlene at 704-914-8999 or email klcministries@yahoo.com

Putnam Baptist Church, 1146 County Home Road in

Shelby, is inviting all kids ages 3 years old-5th grade to participate in its Vacation Bible School every Wednesday night, beginning July 9-August 20 from 6-8 p.m. The VBS will feature Bible Blast, Crafts/Mission, Cinema Science, Hyper Speed Games and Test Tube Treats.

Hardin Baptist Church, in Dallas, will be offering two new programs this fall: a half-day preschool from 8:30-11:30 a.m. for children ages 2-4 and an after school program for K-5th grade children on Monday-Friday 2:30-6 p.m. All staff members have received training in CPR and for Food Allergies. Discounts are available for multiple children. For more information, call Children's Ministry Director at 704-689-3474.

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church, 701 E. Gold Street, will have Vacation Bible School from July 13-July 17. The theme is "Outrigger Island." A Kick-Off celebration is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, July 12, 2008.

Beulah United Methodist Church, 1534 Stony Point Road, Shelby, will be hosting a Breakfast Buffet from 7-10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 19, 2008 to benefit its youth group. Adult plates will be sold for \$6 and children-under-12 plates for \$3. For more information, call Barbara Csobody at 704-484-2891.

Midview Baptist Church, 703 Margrace Road, is hosting a Gospel Singing featuring "2

For 1" from Cowpens, SC, at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 12, 2008. The event is open to the public. For more information call Ronny Roberts at 704-730-9382 or 704-300-5355.

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 220 N. Watterson Street, will celebrate its 128th Homecoming and Revival beginning at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 13, 2008. Pastor M. Lamont Littlejohn, of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Shelby, will be the guest speaker. Beginning Monday, July 14-Wednesday, July 16, at 7 p.m. each night, Pastor Donald N. Brown, of New Zion Baptist Church in Spindale, will be guest speaker.

Carolina Praise & Worship Center, 201 N. Main Street in Grover, will be having a prayer walk at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 12, beginning at the church. The walk will continue down several streets as prayers are carried through the town. For more information contact the church at 704-937-7541.

Sisk-Butler Funeral Home 704-629-2255

We offer a complete funeral service package which includes: Full Traditional Service (including family car), 20 Gauge Steel Casket, Protective Vault. \$3295.00 www.siskbutler.com

The Secret Anti-Allergy Weapon Drug Companies Don't Want You to Discover!

Over 40 million Americans suffer from allergies to mold, grass, pollen, dust, and other airborne agents. Every year, billions of dollars of over-the-counter medications are sold to suppress your symptoms and help make life livable again.

The big drug companies would like you to believe that suppressing your symptoms with their synthetic drugs is your best recourse against allergies. But they're trying to fool you.

You don't have to take dangerous drugs to suppress your symptoms. Natural remedies can do the job better, and without side-effects.

The secret weapon against allergies that we recommend is NATURAL D-HIST which contains the most effective natural allergy-fighters known to man (and in the correct proportions):

- Quercetin: an anti-inflammatory and histamine-blocker, its effect on allergies is unmatched by any other natural substance.
-Vitamin C: proven over many years to significantly lower symptoms of allergies, colds, asthma and bronchitis.
-Stinging Nettle: creates an antihistamine effect.
-Bromelain: reduces inflammation by inhibiting kinin formation (which causes the swelling and pain).
-N-Acetyl-Cysteine (NAC): breaks down the viscosity of mucous better than any other natural substance.

This powerful all-natural allergy-fighter is NATURAL D-HIST, and it's the most powerful approach to fighting allergies we've ever found. This amazing all-natural product works so well that we will refund your money if it doesn't meet your expectations.

How many big drug companies will give you that guarantee? NATURAL D-HIST (120 caps).....\$34.98

The Healthy-Aging Experts at Prescriptions Plus Pharmacy ship across town or across the country. Please add 6.75% tax and \$3.95 s&h to phone/mail orders

"When you absolutely, positively, want to feel better!"



Prescriptions Plus Pharmacy

Two Convenient Stores to Serve You 1114 W. Gold Street, Kings Mountain David Lovelace, R.Ph.; (704) 739-4519 Hours: Mon-Fri 9a-6p; Sat 9a-12p 1614 W. Franklin Blvd, Gastonia Billy Wease, R.Ph.; (704) 867-3518 Hours: Mon-Fri 10a-6p