

# the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH  
30 APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

## WISDOM FROM ABOVE

BY JERRY ASCHER



One of the blessings for every Christian is that we have in our possession the source of ultimate truth, the Bible. This gives us the needed confidence when facing life's trials. "I will plant my feet on its firm foundation," Harold Lillenas wrote in his gospel song "The Bible Stands." God's Word is a precious treasure indeed! And as we fill our minds with God's Word, we become wiser and more understanding of the ways of God Himself. **One major goal in our comprehension of God's Word is to gain "the wisdom that is from above"** (James 3:17). James defines for us what that looks like. It is first **pure**, referring to moral and spiritual integrity. This was exhibited to the greatest degree by Jesus, Himself. It has been rightly described as the source from which all the other characteristics of this wisdom derive their meaning. Next, the wisdom that is from above is **peaceable**. One who exhibits this wisdom, "yearns to heal all divisions by wise counsel."\* In the Beatitudes, Jesus commends such people saying, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God" (Matt. 5:9).

The next characteristic of wisdom from above is that it is gentle. Vine's defines this word as "not insisting on the letter of the law." James encourages believers to be reasonable with others. Next, wisdom that is from above is **willing to yield**. Christians should always be ready to willingly defer to the other person's wishes. The opposite of this is to be stubborn or obstinate. The final two characteristics in this list are what could be called two sides of the same coin. A person exhibiting wisdom from above is **full of mercy and good fruit**. It is more than just feeling sorry or a sense of pity for someone else. Mercy must be accompanied by good fruit. The list ends with two negative characteristics of wisdom from above: **without partiality and without hypocrisy**. Heavenly wisdom is unbiased and is not hypocritical. It upholds Christian unity and sincerity. May the possession of such wisdom not lead us to pride. This kind of focus is part of another list described by James as "wisdom (which) does not descend from above" (v. 15). Such wisdom is characterized by "bitter envy and self-seeking," is "earthly, sensual, and demonic," and exhibits "confusion and every evil thing" (v. 16). In which list did we live in the most this past week? May the knowledge we glean from God's Word never make us boastful and proud, but may it be exhibited in our "good conduct" (v. 13) for God's glory.

\* D. Edmond Hiebert, *James, Winona Lake, Indiana: BMH Books, 1992. pg. 212*

**But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. James 3:17**





For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:  
9:30, 11:00 AM OR 6:00 PM**

In-person services (with singing) take place in the gym. Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the auditorium (no singing) or available to you at home.

**SUNDAY, 02 MAY**

- "ACROSS THE LANDS"
- "I WILL PRAISE HIM"
- PRAYER
- "WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN"
- MESSAGE: "GOD IS GOOD EVEN WHEN LIFE ISN'T" RUTH 1 PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "YOU ARE ALWAYS GOOD"
- BENEDICTION

**HOPE IN CHAOS**  
The Book of Ruth

**SUNDAY SERMON SERIES THIS MONTH**





# WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY/KIDS 4 TRUTH: 7 PM

This mid-week service takes place in-person in the auditorium. If you would like a Zoom link to participate, please email the church office.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR RUTH 1

1. What were Naomi's circumstances? (Ruth 1:1-13)
2. What was Naomi's interpretation of her circumstances? (Ruth 1:13, 20-21)
3. How did Naomi's perspective change? (Ruth 2:19-20)
4. What is the meaning of the word translated "kindly" (*hesed*)? (Ruth 1:8; 2:20; 3:10)
5. What was God doing through the suffering of Naomi? (Ruth 4:13-17)
6. How does the story of Naomi strengthen your confidence in God's goodness?
7. What Scripture passages encourage you to trust the Lord when life is hard?



## Need to contact us?

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## GIVING

E-transfer is available. From your bank's website, select the e-transfer feature. The email address to transfer to is [donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com](mailto:donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com). Your donation will be automatically accepted and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.



## MISSIONARY CORNER

Greetings from Bolivia South America. We are in a new year and are continuing to serve the Lord the best we can with the Covid conditions that are in place here. We are allowed to meet up to 30% of the building capacity and there are no restrictions on travel in the country. We are not allowed to meet for seminary classes and so we are doing all classes via internet. We pray that for the third trimester we will be able to meet in class. Our students are faithful even though they are not in class together. At the present time we are dedicating our time to helping Emanuel Baptist Church and teaching at the seminary. The church is without a pastor and we covet your prayers for them. We are trusting the Lord to provide a pastor for Emanuel. In January/February Jake had COVID and had to spend a month in isolation. We are very thankful that his case was not very severe. He is now in recuperation and we expect a full recovery.

We are still having some opportunities to minister to people that have great needs. We want to thank all who have sent us love offerings and financial help to meet the needs of many. While Bolivia is getting back to some normalcy, there are still people suffering financially. We praise the Lord for the testimony of Emanuel Baptist Church during this time of difficulty.

We are helping those that the Lord brings into our path in other ways. Bolivia has gone through some very difficult times. Last year we had new elections. A couple of weeks ago we had local elections and there are some conflicts from time to time because of political disagreements. We would appreciate your prayers for Emanuel Baptist Church, Baptist International Seminary and for the Lord's protection from COVID.

We thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support during this rather complicated time.



*Jake & Sharon Wiebe serve the Lord in Bolivia. MBC has supported them since 1996.*

