



# Daily Reflections

**May 16, 2016**

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## Scripture

**James 3: 3-18**

Beloved:

Who among you is wise and understanding?

Let him show his works by a good life  
in the humility that comes from wisdom.

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts,  
do not boast and be false to the truth.

Wisdom of this kind does not come down from above  
but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist,  
there is disorder and every foul practice.

But the wisdom from above is first of all pure,  
then peaceable, gentle, compliant,  
full of mercy and good fruits,  
without inconstancy or insincerity.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace  
for those who cultivate peace.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

James writes this section of his letter to combat bitter divisions that have occurred within his community. Some are claiming to have special wisdom and are walking around with an arrogant attitude towards their neighbor. For James, true wisdom, wisdom from on high, is characterized by humility towards all and shows itself in action on behalf of others, especially those in need. True wisdom brings peace.

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## **Food for your Journey**

This spring, a 17-year-old high-school senior from Fremont, California, made national news when she did something remarkable. She achieved a perfect score (800) on both sections of the Scholastic Aptitude Test and a perfect 8,000 on the tough University of California acceptance index. Never in history has any one student accomplished this intellectual feat. At her high school, she is known as "Wonder Woman" because of her brains. And so far as I know, she's planning on attending Harvard this fall. But what was interesting in the news story about this young woman was a little exchange between her and a reporter. He asked her, "What is the meaning of life?" She replied, "I have no idea."

-- Gleaves Whitney, "The Roots of American Disorder," Vital Speeches LXII (October 15, 1996).

Information is not the same thing as wisdom.

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Meek and humble of heart, bring my mind and heart close to Your mind and heart. Amen.