

**FOR THE BROTHERS:
A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES OF JAMES, JOHN, JUDE
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**

**James: Taming the Tongue
James 3:1-12
October 27, 2016**

:1-2 I. The Christian must tame his tongue.

:1 A. God holds us responsible for our words.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

1. Those who teach must be cautious.

2. All believers must be diligent.

cf. James 4:1, 11; Matthew 12:35; 28:19

:2a B. There is great potential for sinning with our words.

²For we all stumble in many ways. ...

cf. I John 1:8

1. Perfection is not the goal in this age.

2. Maturity is the goal in this age.

:2b C. Our tongue is a prime component for sanctification.

... And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

cf. Romans 3:13-14

:3-5 II. The tongue has disproportionate and incredible power.

:3 A. A bridled tongue can direct your life.

³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

cf. Proverbs 13:3; 21:23

:4 B. A controlled tongue influences others.

⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

:5 C. The uncontrolled tongue has destructive power.

⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

cf. Romans 3:13-14

:6, 8b,c III. The tongue is naturally inclined toward evil.

⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ... It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Five dangers of the tongue:

1. Fire

cf. Proverbs 16:27

2. World of unrighteousness

cf. Matthew 15:11

- 3. Stains the whole body cf. James 1:26
 - 4. Restless evil
 - 5. Poisonous cf. Psalm 140:3
- Source of destruction is hell

:9-12 **IV. The tongue reveals what is inside us.**

:9 A. Inconsistency in our spirituality.
 ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

:10-12 B. Index to our hearts.
 ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.
 cf. Matthew 7:16-20; 15:16-19

:7-8a **V. The tongue points us to Christ.**

⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ...⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue.

A. Our need for the Gospel.
 cf. Ezekiel 36; Isaiah 6:1-6; Romans 8:1; James 1:18, 26

B. Walking by the Spirit.

1. Abide in the Word.
 cf. Galatians 5:16-17; 19-20; 22-23; Ephesians 6:17

2. Directed by the Word.

a. Praise God with our voices.
 cf. Psalm 71:15

b. Speech seasoned with grace.
 cf. Ephesians 4:11, 25, 29

c. Breathe life into others.
 cf. Proverbs 18:21; John 6:63