

## JAMES #6 - THE TONGUE

### JAMES 3:1-12

James introduces the subject of the tongue in chapter 1 (vs. 19 & 26). Our tongues are given by God to use for His glory.

#### I. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MASTERS (TEACHERS)

- A. We are not to rush hastily into teaching JAMES 3:1
  - 1. Teaching is an honored position (respected!)
  - 2. Teaching is an authority position (responsible!)
- B. Teachers must give an account to God HEB. 13:17

#### II. THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

- A. The perfect (mature) can bridle (control)
  - 1. Controlling tongues prevent offence JAMES 3:2
  - 2. Controlling tongues control the whole person
- B. Illustrations on controlling of the tongue JAMES 3:3-5
  - 1. Bits in the horse's mouth (turns whole horse)
  - 2. Small helm (rudder) on ship (turns whole ship)
  - 3. A little fire (match) and forest fires (Chicago)
- C. LITTLE member but BOASTETH (kindle/begin) GREAT things
  - 1. Can be positive: Instruct, praise, encourage
  - 2. Can be negative: Gossip, slander, destroy
  - 3. Control: bridle, help, water on fire

#### III. THE VICIOUS NATURE OF THE TONGUE

- A. It is a FIRE, a WORLD of iniquity PROV. 16:27
  - 1. Gossip can do more damage in 10 mins than a church can build in 10 years faithful ministry!
  - 2. STOP IT when smelling "smoke" (or flames appear)
- B. It defiles WHOLE body - personality polluted by tongue
- C. It is set on fire of hell (unquenchable flames)

#### IV. THE DIFFICULTY CONTROLLING THE TONGUE

- A. REST of creation can be tamed (controlled) JAMES 3:7&8
- B. ALL BUT the tongue (Unruly, evil, full of poison)
- C. Strategy for being thought WISE by others PROV. 17:28

#### V. THE INCONSISTENCY OF THE TONGUE

- A. Same tongue blesses God and curses men JAMES 3:9-10
- B. This is the highest and lowest use PSA. 34:13
- C. No "tongue" can do both and be right JAMES 3:11-12