

August 16, 2020
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
James 3:1-12

“Guard Your Tongue!” – Part 1

VII. Guard Your Tongue!

A. Your Tongue _____ You (1-2)

B. Your Tongue _____ You (3-5a)

C. Your Tongue _____ You (5b-6)

D. Your Tongue _____ You (7-8)

E. Your Tongue _____ You (9-12)

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. How are you doing on memorizing James? It's not too late to start. There is a wonderful reward for all who memorize the whole book. Just 108 verses. Two people have finished it already and others are in chapter 4. Some are in their 80's! Go for it. You will be blessed (see Psalm 119 for some of the blessings).
2. How does James 3:1-12 relate to James 1:26? What other passages in James mention the tongue (mouth; words; statements)? Why is the tongue such a big deal to James? What point is he making?
3. All believers have been called to teach at one degree or another (Deut. 6:4-9; Prov. 1:8; Mt. 28:19-20; Titus 2:3-5). What kind of "teacher" is James referring to in 3:1? Why would someone want to be a teacher? How important were teachers before the New Testament Scriptures were written? How were teachers (rabbis) viewed in Judaism and in the early church? What are some wrong motives a person might have for becoming a teacher in the church?
4. James doesn't say that nobody should become a teacher (by the use of "we" he acknowledges that he is one). But why does he command them in verse 1 not to have many (polloi - multitude) of them become teachers? What hazard is there in becoming a teacher? What does this have to do with the tongue?
5. What "judgment" is James referring to in verse 1? (See 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; Mt. 16:27) What kinds of things will people be judged for (Mt. 12:33-37; 16:24-27; Rom. 2:14-16; 1 Cor. 4:1-5)? Based on that, why would teachers incur a stricter judgment?
6. Since teachers incur a stricter judgment, how much effort should they put into studying, meditating on and applying the truth of God's Word before they teach it to others? (See Ezra 7:10; 1 Tim. 4:6-16; 2 Tim. 2:15; Titus 1:9)
7. In verse 2, is James saying that we can be "perfect" in the sense of sinless in this life? If not, what does he mean by "perfect"? How has he used that word in previous verses? (see James 1:4, 17, 25) Why is the tongue so important as a barometer of spiritual maturity?
8. What point is James making about the horse and bit, and the ship and rudder? What is the application of that to the tongue and the body?
9. What kind of boasting is James referring to in verse 5? What is the tongue boasting about?
10. How does the tongue direct our lives? In what sense do our words direct our behavior (both for good and for bad)? Give examples of how this happens.
11. What are the benefits of guarding your tongue? List as many as you can think of.
12. What are some specific ways you can guard your tongue so that it won't denounce you on the day of judgment? Be specific and practical in your answers. What Scriptures can you meditate upon to help?
13. What are some specific ways you can guard your tongue so it doesn't direct you down the wrong paths? What Scriptures can you mediate upon to help?
14. If you haven't already done so, **memorize James 3:1-12** and quote it in the morning, at noon, and at night every day this week. Don't forget to review the first two chapters. Ask the LORD to transform you by the renewing of your mind and transform the way your tongue displays that changed life.