

James 3:1-12 Part I

Tame Your Tongue

1. The Central _____ of the Tongue: (1-2)

- a. Warning: *'Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers':*
 - i. Not a warning against _____. –Col 3:16; Titus 2:3
 - ii. But about becoming a _____. –Acts 13:1; 1 Tim 1:7
- b. Rationale: *'we who teach will be judged with greater strictness':*
 - i. They know this because _____ taught this. –Mat 12:37; Lk 20:27
 - ii. Teachers do not live by a greater _____. –Jam 1:25
 - iii. Teachers will face a greater _____. –Matt 7:1-2; Jam 1:12
- c. Metric: *'for we all stumble in many ways. If any man does not stumble in what he says he is a perfect man'*
 - i. Teachers are as _____ of sin as everyone else. –Jam 3:9
 - ii. Right speech is the preeminent mark of Christian _____.:
 - 1. Such a person is perfect and _____. –Jam 1:2-4
 - 2. Such a person is able to _____ his whole body. –Jam 1:26
 - iii. There are many ways to _____ in speech:
 - 1. By _____. –Jam 1:13, 19; 2:16; 3:9; 4:1-3, 11-17; 5:12
 - 2. By _____. –Jam 1:5, 2:8; 3:14, 17-18; 4:15; 5:16; 19-20

2. The Disproportionate _____ of the Tongue: (3-5)

- a. Two examples:
 - i. The large horse is _____ by a small bit. –Ps 32:9
 - ii. A large ship in strong winds is precisely _____ by a small rudder. –Prov 27:16; Acts 27:40
- b. The explanation: *'So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things':*
 - i. Our _____ has a massive effect on us and others. –Prov 18:21
 - ii. Our _____ has the potential for great _____. –Jam 3:5b-12

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look 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 So 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! ⁶ And 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. 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. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 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.