

"Taming the Tongue--Part 2"

(James 3:5-12)

I. Its Possibility to Consume (James 3:5)

- A. If you have a match, you can light a forest fire or burn down a whole city because fire has a way of multiplying.
- B. James 3:6 has four parts that warn us about the peril of the tongue.
- C. First, it is a world of iniquity.
- D. Second, the tongue defiles the entire body.
- E. Third..."It...setteth on fire the course of nature."
 - 1. A better translation, "It is setting on fire the circle of life."
 - 2. The tongue reaches beyond you to impact the whole network of people that are touched by you.
- F. Fourth...it is set on fire of hell.
 - 1. The word here "hell" is Gehenna.
 - a. The place where the fire never goes out.
 - b. Where the worm never dies.
 - c. Where the thirst is never quenched.
 - 2. Our tongue can be a tool of Satan.
- G. One day we will have a glorified tongue that does nothing but praise God and speak righteousness.

II. Its Propensity to Contest. (vss 7-8)

- A. damage done in churches by regenerate ones!
- B. James says God gave man the power to control animals but no one can tame the tongue.
- C. God can tame it...by His power.

III. Its Perfidy to Compromise. (vs 9)

- A. "Perfidy" means treachery, betrayal, subversion, trickery, deception.
- B. How can a man bless God and curse the man who is made in the image of God?
- C. Blessing and cursing comes from the mouth of all of us. (vs 10)
- D. A clean, fresh heart can't produce bitter water.
- E. A bitter heart can't produce fresh water.

IV. Conclusion

- A. A true believer speaks with a tongue that is under control. (1 Peter 3:10)
- B. James calls for us to have a tamed tongue.
- C. If we do, it's evidence that we're a Christian.
- D. If we do, it's evidence that we're walking in obedience.