

Faith Works
James 3:1-12
February 25, 2014

- I. All About the Tongue! – James 3:1-12
 - A. Connecting This to James 1 & 2
 1. Earlier teaching on the tongue
 - a. Control of the tongue is one of the clearest examples of “_____ religion”
 - b. Keeping ourselves from being _____ by the world
 2. Connected to the teaching on _____
 - B. To Whom is the Passage Addressed?
 1. Two choices
 - a. Primarily _____
 - b. Primarily all _____
 2. A few reasons to see it as “all believers”
 - a. In verse one, James is talking about _____, not leaders
 - b. The problem of sinful, critical speech is _____
 - c. To make the other interpretation fit some of the _____ of the words have to be made to mean something unnatural.
 - d. Example – vs. 2 – body = soma
- II. Teachers – Vv. 1-2
 - A. Why Does James Single Out Teachers
 1. It provides a convenient “_____” to discuss the tongue or words in general
 2. Teachers do have influence...even _____
 - B. Why Discourage People From Becoming Teachers?
 1. Teachers are given the task of explaining the _____ of the gospel
 - a. It is a _____ trust

2. Teachers can have considerable _____
 - a. True then and now

3. Teachers will be _____ more strictly (1b)
 - a. Because teaching involves the _____
 - i. Teachers expose themselves to a greater _____ of judgment

 - b. But James is also saying that because teachers bear so much _____ for the spiritual welfare of others, we will be scrutinized by God
4. Perhaps too many people were _____ to become teachers

C. We All Fall Down – Vs. 2

1. “For”
 - a. Teachers are more susceptible to judgment _____ they engage in that activity which is hardest to keep from sin

2. In many ways
 - a. Both _____ of sin and _____ of sin
3. Words are particularly hard to _____

4. If we could control our words completely, we’d be _____

III. Analogies on the Impact of the Tongue – Vv. 3-5

A. Bits and Rudders

1. Very small implements control the _____ and course of much larger things
2. The tongue is small, but it has a tremendous _____ on our spiritual condition

3. “_____” winds
 - a. Skleros = Hard, rough, _____

4. _____ will
 - a. The pilot _____ the ship's rudder
 - b. We are not hapless _____ of our tongues

B. Great Boasts

1. Not so much our boasting, but the _____ is actually boasting

C. Sparks and Flame

1. A spark is also a small thing that _____ to something much larger
2. But James is here introducing a new thought
 - a. The _____ power of the tongue

IV. The Power of the Tongue – Vv. 6-12

A. Destructive Fire – Vs. 6

1. Strong _____
2. Difficult translation
3. The meaning of “_____ of evil”
 - a. World = kosmos
4. Probable best translation
 - a. “And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is appointed among our members (parts of the body) as the world of unrighteousness, staining the whole body, setting on fire the course of existence”
 - b. In other words, by being the most difficult part of the _____ to control, the tongue becomes the conduit of much of the _____ we commit
5. The _____ of this destructive fire

B. The Taming of the Tongue – Vs. 7-8

1. Evidence
 - a. As a fire is difficult to bring under _____, so is the tongue
2. _____ language
 - a. Subtle irony: Man has _____ over the whole animal kingdom but cannot _____ over his own mouth!
3. Restless, _____ evil

a. Restless = _____

C. Praising and Cursing – Vv. 9-12

1. “Doubleness

a. One who tries to please both _____ and the _____

2. Made in God’s _____

3. It ought _____ be

4. Illustrations

a. James’s _____ is the same in all of them

b. Just as the _____ spring cannot produce salt water, nor a _____ tree produce olives, nor a grapevine produce _____

c. So the _____ heart cannot produce _____, bitter, harmful speech

5. Verse 12

a. Conversely, _____ things don’t produce good things

V. Application: Dealing With Our Hearts

A. Inside Out

1. James 4:8 & Matt. 12:34

2. The problem is our _____

B. Intimacy With God

1. Marriage

2. How can I possibly belong solely to _____, if I am not in intimate fellowship with him?

3. Prayer