

Taming The Tongue

(Part 1)

James 1:19,26; 3:1-12

1

More Than Profession

- *James 1:22* “Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding your own selves ...”
- *James 2:14ff* – Saving faith is a working faith.
- *James 3* – Is your tongue being controlled by faith? cf. *2 Corinthians 10:5*

2

More Than Profession

- Regardless of how scrupulous one might be about observing outward religious forms, if we do not bridle our tongues, we deceive ourselves; we displease God; and our religion is vain. (*cf. Matthew 15:8-9,19*)

3

More Than Profession

- Taming the tongue is not just a matter of good taste or avoiding embarrassment.
- It has to do with our salvation or damnation! (*cf. Matthew 12:34-37*)

4

“Ye Know This...”

- *“The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver” (Proverbs 10:20).*
- *“Set a watch, O Jehovah, before my mouth; Keep the door of my lips” (Psalms 141:3).*
- *“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles” (Proverbs 21:23).*
- *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in network of silver” (Proverbs 25:11).*

5

“Ye Know This...”

- *“In the multitude of words there wanteth not transgression; but he that refraineth his lips doeth wisely” (Proverbs 10:19).*
- *“He that guardeth his mouth keepeth his life; but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction” (Proverbs 13:3).*
- *“Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him” (Proverbs 29:20).*

6

“Ye Know This...”

- *“A soft answer turneth away wrath; but a grievous word stirreth up anger” (Proverbs 15:1).*
- *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21).*

7

“Be not many of you teachers ...”

James 3:1

- In some respect we are all teachers. Ephesians 6:4; Titus 2:3; Hebrews 5:12-14
- The teacher has a grave responsibility.
 - It is more than just a position. Matthew 23:7-10
 - Must edify. 1 Corinthians 14:26; Ephesians 4:29
 - Preparation and Faithfulness necessary. 1 Timothy 4:13-16; cf. 1 Timothy 1:7; Romans 2:17-24

8

“Be not many of you teachers...”

James 3:1

- Tragedy associated with the wrong kind of teachers.
 - Vain hope. Jeremiah 23:16-23
 - Turn people from God. Jeremiah 23:26-27; 6:16; 5:30-31; cf. Isaiah 30:10
- Preaching the message of God turns people TO God. Matthew 12:41; Jonah 3:1-2

9

“Greater judgment” James 3:1

- Important message. 1 Corinthians 1:21; cf. 1 Corinthians 2:3
- Preach the word. 2 Timothy 4:2ff; 1 Peter 4:11
- What if I fail???
 - Acts 20:20, 27 Responsible for others.
 - Galatians 1:6-7 Anathema of God.
 - Galatians 2:5 Truth does not continue.
 - 2 John 9ff Fellowship with God severed.

10

Eternal consequences for leading men in the wrong direction.

- *1 Timothy 1:3-4* – strife and questions follow such teaching.
- Paul warned the Ephesian elders, *“And from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.” (Acts 20:30)*
- Those who taught the Gentiles to be circumcised were *“subverting your souls.” (cf. Acts 15:24)*

11

Eternal consequences for leading men in the wrong direction.

- Hymenaeus and Philetus erred, *“saying that the resurrection is past already, and overthrow the faith of some.” (2 Timothy 2:14-18)*
- Peter said of false teachers, *“And many shall follow their lascivious doings; by reason of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of.” (2 Peter 2:2)*
- Paul wrote, *“This I say, that no one may delude you with persuasiveness of speech.” (Colossians 2:4)*

12

Eternal consequences for leading men in
the wrong direction.

- Little comfort in saying,
“But I didn’t know ...”

13

Effect NOT Determined By Motive
Of Teacher

- Philippians 1:15-18
Motive Wrong – Teaching right.
- Galatians 1:13-14; Acts 23:1; 26:9;
1 Timothy 1:13
Motive right – Teaching wrong.

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