

Blue Jean Christianity

Study in the Book of James

James review

Written to believing Jews from 12 Tribes of Israel, scattered around/into the world by persecution

- Jewish Diaspora
- Persecution of Christ Followers
 - Trials from non-believing Jews and pagan Gentiles

The temptation would be to:

- Keep quiet, don't speak out about faith
- Mind own business, keep head down, blend in
- give in to impatience, bitterness, quarrels, materialism and spiritual apathy

James review

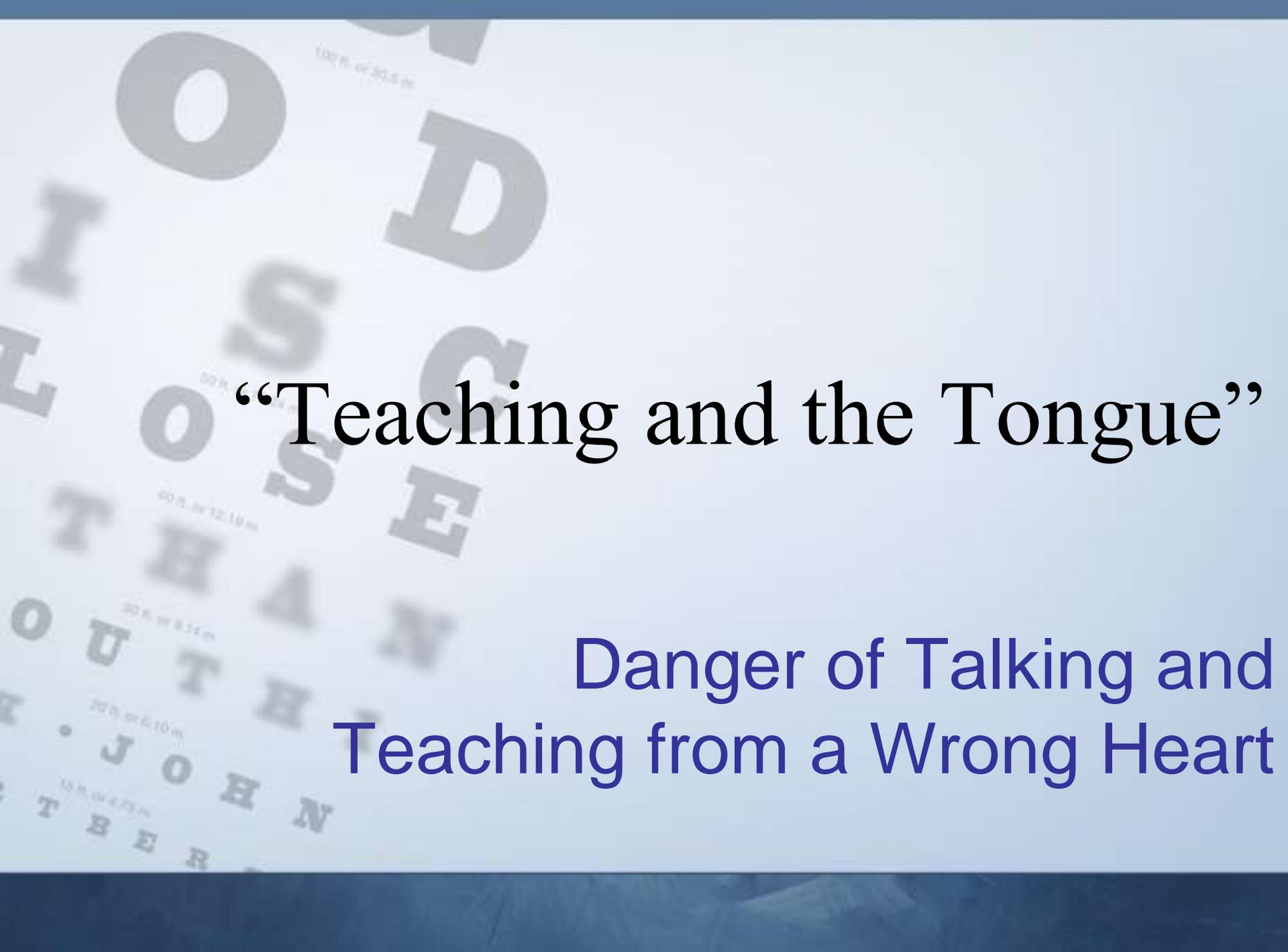
- Ch 1- Believer's joy in Trials, as evidence of Faith
 - Resist Temptation as evidence of Faith
 - Perseverance as evidence of Faith
 - "Active, Caring, Doing Religion" is Result of Faith
- Ch 2- Believer's equal treatment of Others as Evidence of Faith
 - Faith-claim without life-change is not real

You might say, James presents a series of Tests to evaluate whether Faith is Real/Living or Fake/Dead

A Fitting Introduction

- Statement of God's intentions:

James 1:16-18 *“Do not be deceived my beloved brethren. Every good and perfect gift comes from above, from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the Word of Truth, so that we might be . . . the first fruits among His creatures”*



“Teaching and the Tongue”

Danger of Talking and
Teaching from a Wrong Heart

James 3:1-2, 6, 8

“Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgement. For we all stumble in many ways. If one does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well (1-2).

The tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity, set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, sets on fire the course of our life and is set on fire by hell (6).

No one can tame the tongue it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison (8)

We all Sin; violate God's holiness

- Romans 3:9 All are under sin.
- *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom.3:23)*
- 1 John 1:8 *“If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us”*

But, we must not take comfort in that fact.

Gravity & Importance of Representing-Teaching God's Truth

- Not saying, "Don't Teach"- that would be contradictory
 - Aspire to teach (1Tim.3:1)
 - Natural result of growing, maturing in Christ to teach (Heb.5:12, 2Tim.2:2 Teach others to teach)
- Danger of mis-handling, misrepresenting God's Word (3:1)
 - There is a stricter scrutiny, greater judgement
 - 2Tim.3:16-17; Rom.10:17

Gravity & Importance of Representing-Teaching God's Truth

- Actually saying, don't take role of teaching lightly (ILL. Paul regarding Marriage)
 - Soberly, Seriously, with all Gravity
 - 2Tim.3:16-17; Rom.10:17
- Not like the Hypocrites, (Mtt.23:6-7)

The Tongue (how we speak and what we say), plays a huge role in communicating God's Truth

- The Tongue- little in size, big in power (3:3-6)
 - Horses and Ships (v.3-4)
 - Massive wild fires caused by a little spark
- The “Untamed” Tongue- “Defiles entire witness, changes the course of Life (3:6-8)

The Tongue doesn't speak on it's own initiative

- Source of the Fountain (3:11)
- The fig Tree and Vine (3:12)
 - Heart and Mind:
 - Wisdom from God (3:13, 17-18)
 - Vs. Earthly, fleshly wisdom (3:14-16)
- You can Renew your heart and mind
 - Ps. 139:23-24; Ps.51:10
 - Rom.12:2; Phil. 4:8; Ps. 119:9-11
 - Eph. 4:29; 2Cor.10:5 Every thought captive.