



Taming The Terrible Tongue

James 3:1-12

- 1) Our words qualify as works (Jas. 1:19-20, 26; 2:14-26)
 - a) Jesus: ...*by your words, you will be justified*... (Matt. 12:36-37)
 - b) Tongue is powerful: devastating & healing
 - c) Untamable; revealing our depravity
 - d) Unveiling: a window to our souls
- 2) Teachers beware! (3:1-4)
 - a) Teaching not for everyone, though all teach
 - b) Teaching is a gift (1 Cor. 12:28; cf. Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11)
 - c) Much is expected from teachers (Luke 12:48)
 - d) Teaching is risky (Prov. 10:8; 11:9; 12:18, 25; 13:3; 18:21)
 - e) Teachers must reveal the totality of Christ's revelation (Acts 20:26-27)
 - f) False teachers will be condemned (Mark 12:40)
- 3) The tongue, though small, is mighty & powerful (5-12)
 - a) Boasts of great things (3:5; 4:16): gossip, critical, flattery, blasphemy
 - b) Our tongues exposes our true character
 - c) It praises yet curses
 - d) It heals, encourages (2 Cor. 7:5-7)
- 4) What can we do about our tongues?
 - a) Ask God to clean your lips, your heart (cf. Isa. 6:5)
 - b) Daily prayer puts us on alert to what we say
 - c) Discipline yourself, confessing sins of the mouth