

The Letter of James

James 1 – Being a doer of the word despite trials and temptations.

James 2 – Backing up faith with works.

James 3 - ???

James 4 – Submitting to God and resisting the devil.

James 5 – Judgment amid spiritual sickness.

James 3 – Is it just about the tongue?

- **James 3:1 – Danger of being a teacher...**
 - **Let not many become teachers...**
 - **We shall receive a stricter judgment**

James 3 – Is it just about the tongue?

- **James 3:2-12 – Power of the tongue...**
 - **If anyone does not stumble in word, he is able to control his whole body**
 - **Examples – Horses -bits, ships-rudders**
 - **It sets on fire the course of nature?**
 - **Blessing vs. cursing**

James 3 – Is it just about the tongue?

- **James 3:13-18 – Godly wisdom vs. carnal wisdom**
 - **Wise and understanding?**
 - **As opposed to envy and self-seeking**
 - **Godly wisdom is first pure...**
 - **Then peaceable, gentle, etc...**
 - **Fruit of righteousness is sown in peace**

James 3 – Is it just about the tongue?

• James 3:1-18 – Common Applications

- Be careful what you teach!**
- If we can control our tongue, we can control any part of our body!**
- Be careful what you say!**
- Don't be a hypocrite!**
- Seek God's wisdom, not man's or your own!**

James 3 – Is it just about the tongue?

- **James 3:1-18 – Putting it all together**
 - **V.1 – Beware of becoming teachers**
 - **V.2-12 – Beware the power of the tongue**
 - **V.13-18 – Seek after godly wisdom**
 - **Link fruit of righteousness (v.17) to carnal wisdom (v.14), to blessing vs. cursing, to stumbling in word**

James 3 – Is it just about the tongue?

- **James 3:1-18 – Putting it all together**
 - **James is speaking to Jewish Christians, 1:1**
 - **Concept of teachers (Rabbi) was very prestigious**
 - **James is condemning those who become teachers for the prestige, teaching their own opinions and ideas, not the Gospel**

James 3 – Is it just about the tongue?

- **James 3:1-18 – Putting it all together**
 - **So what application can I draw from the full picture?**
 - **As a teacher, it's not about you, it's about the Gospel!**
 - **Acts 3:11-16 – Peter and lame man**
 - **Acts 14:14ff – Paul at Lycaonia**