

12/11/88

James 3

James moves from works as evidence of our faith to words as character of our faith.

James has mentioned the tongues in every chapter and does so in the last two.

- Ja. 1:19, 26; 2:12; 4:11; 5:12

- Psalm 37:30 the mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice.

3:1-2 The tongue and teachers.

3:1 Stop becoming many teachers.

(Robertson)

1) Gifts and call of God. Rom. 12:28; Eph. 4

2) Warning is to the presumptuous without the gift and call.

* The servant is not greater than his master.
(Jesus)

3) Reason - teacher shall have a greater judgment.

a) They have to live what they teach.

b) Their motive must be love and obedience.

c) They are accountable for what they teach. 1Cor. 3:1-10; Ezk. 3:17-18; 33:2-3; Acts 20:26-27

d) Acts 20:30 some would rise up and speak perverse things and draw...

* Tit. 1:10-11 idle talkers whose mouths must be stopped.

3:2

1) All men stumble in many things being imperfect. Rom. 3:10, 23; 1Jn. 1:8

2) Mature man is discerning and cautious not to be a stumbling block or stumble.

a) Mat. 12:36-37 idle words required.

b) Mat. 12:34-35 heart is the source. Jer. 17:9

3) Mature man having brought his tongue under the control of God's Holy Spirit is able to bridle his body desire also.

-Ps. 141:3 put a door at my lips...

3:3-8 The tongues Power to direct or destroy.

3:3 First illustration of potential for good.

* A horse and bit to control and direct him.

3:4 Second illustration of potential for good.

- A ship and rudder to steer to safety in storm conditions.

3:5 Third illustration of potential evil

- little fire and great forest.

- 3:6** 1) Tongue is unrighteous. Rom. 3:13-14
 2) Tongue defiles the whole body.
 3) Tongue sets wheel of life.
 4) Tongue is sourced in sinful nature rooted in gehenna.

3:7 Irony of man to tame the fierces animal.

3:8 But man can not tame the tongue only God.
 -It is full of deadly poison. Prov. 18:21;
16:27

3:9-12 The inconsistency of the tongue.

3:9 The inconsistency and incongruous practice of men.
 1) Bless God and curse men yet man is made in the image of God. Gen. 1:26;
5:1; 9:6

2) Sharp rebuke.
 - 1Tim. 5:11-15 idle women.

3:11-12 Two rhetorical questions with obvious answers to illustrate the incompatibility.
 - Matt. 7:16 know them by their fruits.
 - Is. 50:4 the Lord has given me...
 - Prov. 4:23 keep your heart with all deligence.

3:13-18 Two wisdoms uttered by the tongue.

3:13

- 1) Teaches us to show by good conduct that he is wise example.
- 2) Works are done in works demenstrating meekness.

3:14 Person with bitter envying and self seeking his heart lies against the truth of the gospel being taught by him. Ja. 1:18; 5:19

3:15 This wisdom is identified.

- 1) Not from heaven or divine.
- 2) But earthly.
- 3) Sensual- dominated by the flesh, natural. 1Cor. 2:14; Jude 19
- 4) Demonic - satanic and destructive.

3:16 The result of such wisdom.

- 1) Confusion - 1Cor. 14:33 God is not author of confusion.
- 2) Every evil thing will be there.

3:17 Wisdom from above or heavenly.

- 1) Pure - unmixed of carnality.
- 2) Peaceable - in right relationship.
- 3) Gentle - fair, considerate forbearing.
- 4) Willing to yield - ready to be guided, open minded.

- 5) Full of mercy - regardless of personal inJury.
- 6) Good fruit - resulting from mercy.
- 7) Without partiality - unambiguous, straight forward, undivided.
- 8) Without hypocrisy - sincere, unfeigned.
Ja. 3:18; Ps. 85:10; Mat. 5:9; Rom. 12:18; Heb.12:14