

**WATCH YOUR
TONGUE**

Deut.19:15

- We cannot enjoy life without tongue control. 1 Pt.3:10-11
- Ja.1:26, bridle, restrain
- Mt.22:12, muzzle
- Mt.12:34-47

'What was in
the well
will be
in the bucket'

I. Characteristics Of The Tongue

James 3

1: highest calling of Jewish child

- James is not against prepared teachers
 1. Acts 15:24, introduced error
 2. Ro.2:17-29, teaching ≠ life
 3. 1 Tim.1:6-7; 2 Tim.3:7
 4. 2 Tim.4:3, tickled

James 3

2: our most frequent failures: speech

- If not, then we are perfect (mature)

- Ja.1:19

The tongue is the last part of the body to get under control.

- Mk.3:5

- Ac.24:9, And the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so.

James 3

3-4: James, with illustrations

- ‘There is more imagery drawn from natural phenomena in the one short epistle of James than in all of Paul’s epistles put together.’
 - 1000 lb. horse – bit
 - Huge ship – rudder
 - Hitler, Stalin, S. Hussein
 - Tongue

James 3

5-6: tongue – powerful

- Powerful for good
- If misused, like spark in forest

Source of tongue spark: hell!

One angry word can destroy
relationship of a lifetime

James 3

7-8: cannot be tamed

- Tongue can be silenced by . . .

1. Paralysis
2. Excision
3. Death
4. Grace of God

- Ps.140:3.

We never reach a point where we can speak without engaging the brain. The tongue is always capable of evil.

James 3

9-12: man – the freak of nature

- 9: man – God's likeness (Gn.1:26)
- 10: Most of us would not poison anyone...

James 3

9-12: man – the freak of nature

- 11-12: Consistency is the key

- Apple tree

Kind to strangers, verbally abusive to family?

- Dog

Praise God on Sunday, slander co-workers M-F?

- Christian

Meek during Bible study, slander afterwards?

James 3

9-12: man – the freak of nature

- 12: Ex.15:23-25
- Ja.1:26, paraphrase

If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless

- Words make my religion worthless???

I. Characteristics Of The Tongue

II. Controlling
The Tongue

The Peril

Prov.21:23

❖ Nu.12:1-2

❖ Jg.8:1-3

Ph.2:2-3

The Peril
The Period

Eccl.3:7

- ❖ Learn when to speak, when to hush

The Peril
The Period

The Purpose

Why am I talking?

❖ Praise God? Ps.34:1

❖ Oppose satan? Rv.12:11. Mt.4.
Mt.15:19

The Peril
The Period
The Purpose

The Product

What will happen if I say this?

- ❖ Our words identify us. Ps.106:33
 - **Unadvisedly**: rashly, thoughtlessly
 - Ex.32; Nu.12; Nu.20
- ❖ Our words affect others. Col.4:6

Concluding Tongue Thoughts

Pr.18:21

‘The voluntary muscles that can work the longest w/o getting tired are those in the jaw.’

‘I have often regretted my speech, never my silence’ – Publius