

James 1:26; 3:1-12

# Bridle The Tongue

# James 1:26

- Jas 1:26 (ESV) If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

# James 3:5-9

- Jas 3:5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!
- Jas 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.
- Jas 3:7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,
- Jas 3:8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
- Jas 3:9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

# What the Tongue can Do

- Jesus was falsely accused by a lying tongue.
- Jesus was convicted and crucified by the words of those jealous of His deity.
- Christians throughout history have been persecuted as a result of words of deceit and hatred.
- Every war that was ever started was by the utterance of a word.
- You have been injured by someone's tongue.
- You have injured others by your tongue.
- **Psa. 12:18 There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.**

# Life and Death by the Tongue

- **Pro. 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.**
  - Many of lives have been greatly affected by the tongue of persons with influence.
  - What does it mean by “those who love it will eat its fruits?”
- **Mat. 12:36-37 “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”**

# God's Word concerning the Tongue

- 1Pe. 3:10 For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;
- Col. 4:6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
- Psa. 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit
- Psa. 37:30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.
- Psa. 120:2 Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.
- Gal. 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

# Keep Watch

- Watch your thoughts; they become words.
- Watch your words; they become actions.
- Watch your actions; they become habit.
- Watch your habits; they become character.
- Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

• Lao Tzu

# Conclusion

- Our words are our most valuable asset in life.
  - Everything and anything we accomplish in life are as a result of our words.
  - We can build up or tear down, edify or destroy, bring forth or push away.
  - Our ability to win souls to Christ depends on the power of our words.
- The tone and timing of our words are just as important as their meaning.
  - Pro. 15:1 "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger".
  - Always tell the truth but don't always be telling it. (timing is important)
- We must always speak the truth in love.
  - Never at the expense of credibility (political correctness).
  - Truth will sometimes hurt or incite anger but is sometimes necessary to bring about repentance.