

# The TONGUE

## James #5

**TEXT: James 3:1-11**

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. **vs. 1.** A STRANGE INSTRUCTION.
  1. The need for teachers (**Matt. 9:36-38**).
  2. God's plan for saving the world (**Mark 16:15-16; 2 Tim. 2:2**).
- B. THE GRAVITY OF SUCH AN ENDEAVOR.
  1. We speak for God (**Rom. 10:13-15**).
  2. We must speak the truth (**Matt. 15:13-14**).
  3. Our lives must be consistent (**Rom. 2:1-3, 17-24**).
- C. **vs. 2.** THO ALL SIN, TEACHERS MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT THEIR SPEECH.
  1. A sign of Spiritual maturity – perfection.
  2. We are to exercise self control in “all things.”

### I. THE ETHICS OF SPEECH (vs. 3-8).

- A. ILLUSTRATIONS OF ITS POWER.
  1. The horse's bridle (**vs. 3**) Turns the whole body.
  2. Compared to the wind, and the ship itself, how big is a rudder (**vs. 4**)
  3. The flame of a match (**vs. 5**).

**“BEHOLD, HOW MUCH WOOD IS KINDLED BY HOW SMALL A  
FIRE!”**

- B. GOOD AND EVIL.
  1. The salvation of the world (**Rom. 10:13-15**).
  2. The destruction of so many (**vs. 6, 8**)
- C. THE DIFFICULTY OF TAMING THE TONGUE (**7-12**)
  1. **vs. 7-8.** Despite being able to tame wild animals, man is unable to tame the tongue!
  2. HYPERBOLE. It is true that no MAN (by himself) can tame the tongue
    - a. But with GOD'S help, we can tame it (**Psa. 141:3**)
    - b. And with GOD'S help, we MUST tame it (**Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6**).
  3. **GENERAL APPLICATION!** ò blessing God and cursing men (**James 9-10**)  
     **“My brethren, these things ought not so to be.”**
  4. Our behavior should be consistent with our calling (**Eph. 4:1**).
  5. It will be consistent with our character (**James 3:11-12; Matt. 12:33-37**).

### II. ABUSES OF THE TONGUE.

- A. CRUDE AND VULGAR SPEECH.
  1. Foolish jesting (**Eph. 3:3-5**).
  2. How did Peter deny Jesus? (**Matt. 26:73-74; Prov. 15:2**).
- B. LYING.
  1. Satan is the Father of Liars (**John 8:44**).
  2. The fate of all liars (**Rev. 21:8**).
  3. There are different ways to deceive – **With the Same Results!**
- C. GOSSIP (**Lev. 19:16; 1 Tim. 5:13**).
- D. ANGRY WORDS (**James 1:19-20**).
- E. THE SLANDERER (**Prov. 6:12-19**).

1. False witness.
  2. Sower of Discord (**3 John 9-10**).
  3. **Prate**. "To bring unjustified charges against, malicious gossip, unfounded rumors."  
**2 Cor. 12:20**. **Whisperer**. *psithurismos* "Lit. to speak into one's ear (in an evil sense); hence, secret slander, backbiting." (**Thayer** and **Vine**).  
**Backbiters**. *katalalos* - "To slander, to speak evil of, to backbite; synonymous to whisperer only more open."
  4. **Gal. 5:12-15, 19-21**.
- F. MURMURING.
1. **gonguzoo**; to murmur, mutter, grumble, say anything in a low tone (**Thayer**).
  2. Caused Israel to fall in the wilderness (**1 Cor. 10:10**; **Phil. 2:14-15**).
- G. FLATTERY.
1. "To praise too much, untruly, or insincerely, as in order to win favor; to try to please, or ingratiate oneself with, by praise and attention." – (**Webster**).
  2. Paul would not use it (**1 Thess. 2:5-6**).
  3. Who do we please (**Gal. 1:10**), and why? (**Jude 16**).

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. **Matthew 12:36-37**. WE WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT WE SAY.
- B. WE MUST REALIZE THE POWER OF OUR SPEECH.

*Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.*

**(Psalms 19:14)**