

Watch Your Tongue

James 3:3-10

Scripture:

3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

Key Points:

1. The Tongue is powerful.
2. The tongue is Perverse.
3. The Tongue is Polluted.

Outline:

1. The Tongue is powerful.
 - a. Because it is influential.
 - i. The bit and the horse
 - ii. The ship and the rudder
 - iii. The spark and the forest.
 - b. The tongue may be small but it makes great boasts.
2. The tongue is Perverse. (6-8)
 - a. The tongue can be satanic and infectious.
 - i. 27 An ungodly man digs up evil, And it is on his lips like a burning fire. (Proverbs 16:27)
 - ii. 18 Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, 19 Is the man who deceives his neighbor, And says, "I was only joking!" 20 Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. 21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife. 22 The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body. (Proverbs 26:18-22)
 - b. The tongue is an uncontrolled beast.
 - i. Man is able to tame all beasts except one and that is the tongue.
 - c. The tongue is uncontrollable because:
 - i. It is a restless evil.

- ii. It is full of deadly poison.
 - (1) 3 They sharpen their tongues like a serpent; The poison of asps is under their lips.(Psalms 140:3)
 - iii. The tongue is loaded with hate and gossip.
- 3. The Tongue is Polluted.
 - a. Because it praises and curses (or wishing evil on man)
 - b. The tongue must be controlled and cleansed.
 - i. Who can this be done?
 - (1) Pray daily that the Lord will keep you from gossip.
 - (2) Love fervently
 - (a) 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)
 - (3) If you have something against someone go to them directly.
 - (a) 15 “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. (Matthew 18:15)
 - (b) 3 Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.(Luke 17:3)
 - (i) Rebuke= reprimand.

Conclusion:

Satan will use the tongue to divide the church and halt what God is doing. Will you resist and control the tongue? Do you have issues with others here today? If so clear them up so that we can move forward. It only takes a few to hold back the body of Christ.