

James 3:2-8 (ESV)

We all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 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! 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. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Taming our Untamable Tongues
James 3:2-8

I. The Decisive Power of Our Tongues

Every tongue has the power to:

- *Direct*

Verse 3-4 – “If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.”

- *Destroy*

Verse 5-8 – “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! 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.... It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”

Galatians 5:15 (NIV)

If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Proverbs 16:27 ESV

“A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.”

- *Deceive*

Verse 9, 10 – “With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.”

- *Delight*

Verse 9 – “With it we bless our Lord and Father...”

Proverbs 18:21 (NIV)

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 16:24 (ESV)

"Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body."

II. The Divine Control of Our Tongues

Verse 13, 17 – “Who is wise and understanding among you?... The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”

Psalms 19:14 (NIV)

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalms 141:3 (ESV)

"Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!"

III. The Daily Management of Our Tongues

Verse 13 – “...By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.”

- We must learn to “think before we speak”.

Proverbs 13:3 (NIV)

"Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin."

Proverbs 15:28 (NIV)

"The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil."

- We must learn to Speak in harmony with our Faith.

Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

