

REASONS TO CONTROL THE TONGUE — JAMES 3:1-6

1. It Has Potential to Condemn (v.1-2) [The Tongue Condemns]

ILLUSTRATION: Teachers

<1Tm.1:7; 2Tm.2:15; He.13:17>

- The potential to speak the wrong thing and misrepresent God's truth is real, thus bringing stricter judgment.
- You must not thrust yourself into a teaching position, because a teacher uses his tongue and has a high liability toward abuse.
- John Knox, the first time in the pulpit, wept uncontrollably because of the responsibility. They had to remove him.
- The apostle Paul did not teach until God took him to Arabia for two years to train him. Then God brought him back.

2. It Has Power to Control (v.3-5a) [The Tongue Controls]

ILLUSTRATION: Bit & Rudder

<Jn.7:46; Ps.39:1>

- The control of the tongue is more than an evidence of spiritual maturity; it is also the means to it.
- The tongue is more likely to sin (instant expression of the heart) than any other member of the body. So if you can control it, you can control the rest of the body.
- If I want to bring my whole spiritual life into control, I ought to work on my tongue.
- You can not do everything, but you can say anything. Concentrate on what you say!

3. It is Dangerous (v.5b-6) [The Tongue Destroys]

ILLUSTRATION: Fire

<Ps.64:3; Mt.12:34-37; Pr.26:20>

- The tongue is as a fire.
- The tongue can multiply.

A. It is a system of iniquity

"a world of iniquity"

[It is tool of Satan]

- The tongue is its own system of evil.
- It is a network that breeds evil.

B. It defiles the whole body

"it defiles the whole body"

[It pollutes the whole person]

- It is like the smoke of the fire.
- It stains everything it does not burn.
- Would you buy clothes at a store fire sale?

C. It Expands

"sets on fire the course of nature"

[It corrupts the whole circle of life]

- It touches everything you touch.
- People know you by how you talk.

D. It is set on fire by hell

"it is set on fire by hell"

[Its origin is from hell]

- Satan started it all.