

James: Marks of a Maturing Disciple



Sound Speech – James 3

Introduction: It is no mere coincidence that the subject matter of our lesson finds itself directly in the middle of James' letter. It is here that a disciple will either continue to mature in their walk with the Lord, or they run the risk of losing all their gains (Col. 3:23-24; Gal. 5:19-21). It is here we must take to heart Proverbs 15:2 – "The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness". This is why sound speech marks a maturing disciple.

The most dangerous weapon known to man

- The _____ has very likely been the instrument that started every battle/conflict to have ever existed – Isa. 14:12-13; Gen. 3:1; 4:8; Gen. 6:3; Gen. 14:1-2
 - ◇ Though it is not the _____ cause – Ezek. 28:16-17; Jas. 4:1; Lk. 6:44-45 (see also Jas. 3:10-12)

- While we may speak/teach the Bible, pray for each other/the lost, encourage, bless, and edify, life will always be one step forward/one step back if that same tongue is used to _____ others – vs. 6-12; Eccl. 7:22
 - ◇ Lying – Prov. 6:17; 12:22
 - ◇ Sowing Discord – Prov. 6:14, 19; Eccl. 4:9-12
 - ◇ _____ & Talebearing – Prov. 11:13; 16:28; 17:4; 18:8; 25:9-10
 - ◇ Slander (whether to their face or behind their back) – Ps. 101:5; Jer. 6:28
 - ◇ Mocking/Jesting – Eph. 5:4-5; Prov. 17:5
 - ◇ Intermeddling into the affairs of others – Prov. 20:19; 26:17; 1 Tim. 5:13
 - ◇ Blasphemy/Cursing – Eph. 4:29; Col. 3:8-9
 - ◇ Causing/Sustaining Strife – Prov. 15:1; 16:32; 26:20-21; 27:15
 - ◇ _____ – Jn. 7:24; Job 35:2, 16
 - ◇ _____ – 1 Cor. 10:10 (Ex. 16:2, 8; Num. 14:2, 29, 37); Jude 16

Tribulation Application: The whole chapter applies. Along with the antichrist & false prophet spewing lies of deceit that will condemn people to everlasting fire (Rev. 13:4-6, 11-13; 19:20), this chapter will serve to help the true believers to identify wolves in sheep's clothing (Mt. 7:15-20; Acts 20:29-30). James also uses many word pictures throughout this chapter that relates to the events after the rapture of the church - Fire of iniquity (3:6; Rev. 9:17); Bitter water (3:11; Rev. 8:11); Fig tree & olive tree (3:12; Rev. 6:13; 11:4); Sowing & Harvesting of peace (3:18; Rev. 21:4; 22:3; Mt. 5:9).

- A disciple in control of their tongue will have wisdom on where God is leading them because they will have dealt with the _____ of the matter – vs. 2-5; 13-18; Heb. 12:14-15; Gal. 6:7-9