

Studies in the Letter from James 3:1-18

Sunday, June 2, 2019

The Letter From James: We said in the first study that James, rather than being a logically developed theme from start to finish, was a series of practical admonitions in living the Christian life. As we move into chapter 2 James raises the issue of partiality among believers and faith that has no works to reflect it.



***Show me your faith without the works,
And I will show you my faith by my works.***

Introduction

The Bible has a great deal to say about the tongue. The taunt of children may sound clever, but nothing could be farther from the truth; it should go: Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can devastate me the rest of my life. A few key passages are these:

Proverbs 20:3 Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, But any fool will quarrel.

Proverbs 10:19 When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

Proverbs 26:4&5 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Or you will also be like him. Answer a fool as his folly deserves, That he not be wise in his own eyes.

Ephesians 4:29-32 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

I. The Awesome Responsibility of Teaching

- A. A teacher/preacher has a place of authority and the confidence of the pupil
- B. It is easy to interject one's own bias into the lesson and thus mislead the pupil
- C. But teachers will be held accountable for their teaching and influence
- D. The tongue has a powerful influence and can steer to whole congregation

II. No One Can Tame the Tongue

- A. It is a fire, the very world of iniquity
- B. We have trained and domesticated many species of animal, but no one can tame the tongue
- C. Out of the same mouth come both blessing and cursing, these things ought not to be

III. Wisdom From Above Is Pure

- A. Bitter jealousy, selfish ambition, and arrogance is an earthly wisdom that is natural and demonic
- B. Wisdom that comes from above is Pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy
- C. The seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace