

Holiness & the Christian Lifestyle: The Tongue

KEY PASSAGE: James 3:1-12

I. THE TONGUE

A. Significance of the Tongue.

1. JAMES 3:1-12 – The tongue is the _____ member.
2. JAMES 1:26 – It is a test of true _____.
3. MATTHEW 12:34-37; 15:18 – It reveals the _____ of the heart.
4. PS 19:14; 141:3; COL 4:6; TITUS 2:8 – We must learn to _____ our speech.

B. It can _____ our blessing from God.

1. READ ISAIAH 59:1-8

- a.) Israel found themselves in a place of _____ the blessings of the Lord & not understanding why they had been _____ from them.
- b.) Isaiah declares that it is not because God's arm has been shortened or His ear no longer able to hear.
- c.) But because of their _____ they have lost the blessing.
- d.) The remainder of the passage shows us that they were guilty of hatching _____.
- e.) This hatching of cockatrice eggs refers to a sin of the tongue, namely _____ and _____.
- f.) God's dealing with Israel is a strong _____ to use as to how God views sins of the tongue.

C. _____ Bearing – defined: _____ in a _____ meaning of the word.

1. Psalm 101:5; Proverbs 11:13; 17:9; 26:20; Romans 1:29-30.
2. _____: speaking evil, mean things about someone.
3. _____: false or unverified rumors that defame someone.
4. Even _____ can be tale-bearing if told to someone who does not need to know & is told only to hurt someone's reputation.
5. **RULE OF THUMB:** If you're not part of the problem & you're not part of the solution, then you probably don't need to be involved in it.

D. _____

1. Proverbs 6:16-19.

- a.) The Lord _____ one who sows discord.
- b.) With the tongue we either _____ or we _____.

E. _____

1. Matthew 5:34-37

- a.) We do not have the power to do so.
- 2. Christians should "always" speak the truth.
- 3. Legal _____: when taking a legal oath we should 'never' swear.
 - a.) Read MATTHEW 5:34-37 – instead we should use the words "I affirm".

F. Taking the Lord's name in _____

1. Exodus 20:7

- a.) We are to avoid all _____ (useless), _____, _____, _____ uses of a name or title of God.
- b.) His name is to be reserved for use in prayer, praise, or serious discussion.
- c.) Don't use _____ substitutes.

G. Filthy Communication

1. Ephesians 4:29-32; Colossians 3:8.

- a.) _____, _____, _____, _____ language.
- 2. Ephesians 5:4
 - b.) "Jesting" means _____ jokes.

H. Cursing

1. Romans 12:14; James 3:10

- a.) Pronouncement of a _____ upon someone, expressing _____.
 - 1. Malice – defined: always taking the _____ part.

I. Reviling or railing

1. 1 Corinthians 5:11; II Peter 2:10-11

- a.) _____, _____, _____ language.
- b.) Blasphemy is _____ against God.

J. Lying; False Witness

- a.) Very straight forward; all lies & false witness.
- b.) Lying is the basis of _____ strategy (i.e. Genesis 2:17; 3:4)
- c.) Deceit – lying by _____ actions. (Proverbs 19:5).

K. Idle Words

1. Matthew 12:36

- a.) _____: idle, stupid talk. Read Ephesians 5:4
- b.) Calling someone a _____. Read Matthew 5:22

OTHER IMPORTANT WORDS TO STUDY:

- _____: this is a form of complaining that harbors a negative attitude; a common factor here is a critical spirit.
- _____: this is the tendency to reach a wrong/incorrect conclusion & perhaps share false assumptions with all who will listen. We must remember that there are usually always two sides to every story.
- _____: facts can be arranged to 'distort' the truth for we usually equate facts with truth. (i.e. Genesis 3:1-6 – Satan used deceit).
- _____: self-promotion & accomplishments.
- _____: this is serving one's ego & is often manipulative by using words to seduce. (Read Psalm 5:9).
- _____: lying about details to make information more sensational or interesting. To embellish the true to make it more dramatic.

II. CONCLUSION

A. Psalm 141:3, *"Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."*

1. The Psalmist understood that he could not control his tongue without the help of God.
2. We must realize the same thing & pray as he did.