

February 28, 2016 SERMON NOTES
Control Your Tongue!
James 3:1-12

I. The power to control your tongue is the mark of a mature believer.

A. Warning: teachers of God's Word are held to a _____.

³ Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

A teacher's life must match _____.

II. Four things every believer should know.

A. The tongue stumbles and _____.

² For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

I am going to cleanse my heart so my mouth does not _____.

B. The tongue: small but _____.

³ Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.

I am going to strive for _____.

C. The tongue is capable of destroying the _____.

...See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

I am going to rid my life of _____.

D. The tongue can only be tamed _____.

⁷ For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. ⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰ from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. ¹¹ Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

I am going to seek _____ in controlling my tongue.