

JAMES 15

The Offense of the Tongue

1. Offend Not in Word

- a. "we offend all" – there is none good - Psalm 14:3 (compare to Titus 3:2-3)
- b. Paul addresses those called "masters" (those that judge in Israel) – Rom 2:1-2
- c. In judgment it is important to have mercy – James 2:13
- d. "offend not in word" – This is the 9th commandment Exo 20:16
- e. It is the hardest to keep because of its implications: Lev 19:16, Pro 26:18-28, 18:21

2. 3:2-4 – Bridling the Body

- a. In a wicked time, bridle your tongue – Prov 13:3, 21:23-24, Amo 5:13
- b. A perfect man was what they were to be – Mat 5:48, Jam 1:4, 1:26
- c. Their assurance was in the *doing* of these things – 2 Pet 1:8-11, James 1:26
- d. For these would-be masters bridling the body was "easier said than done"
- e. Being of such a small thing then why can't they bridle the body? Psa 32:8-9
- f. "...and he was speechless." - Matt 22:1-14
- g. The law stops mouths – Romans 3:19

3. 3:5-8 – The Tongue is a Fire

- a. The fire in David forced his tongue to plead for mercy - Psa 39:1-5
- b. The Lord's tongue of fire that sets hell on fire - Isaiah 30:27-33
- c. God sends them strong delusion to believe a lie - 2 Thess 1:11
- d. Why the great burning? Because ... 3:7-8 – another ref to Psa 140:3 vs. Mat 12:33-36

4. 3:9-12 – Blessing and Cursing

- a. "made after the similitude of God" - The lesson: stop cursing – 3:1
- b. David's prayer for these people to receive for their cursing - Psalm 109:2-6; 15-21
- c. "But I say", don't curse your enemies – Mat 5:43-44
- d. Bitter and sweet water came from the waters of Marah – Exodus 15:23-25
- e. In the wilderness they murmured against God and did not enter – Heb 3:12-4:1