

HOW TO MANAGE YOUR MOUTH

James 3:1-12

v. 2 - "We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check."

I. WHY MUST I WATCH WHAT I SAY?

3 REASONS...

1. MY TONGUE DIRECTS _____ .

v. 3 - "When we put bits in the mouths of horses ... we can turn the whole animal."

v. 4 - "Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go."

2. MY TONGUE CAN DESTROY _____ .

v. 5 - "Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue is also a fire ..."

v. 6b - "... it sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell."

Proverbs 21:23 - "If you want to stay out of trouble be careful what you say!"

v. 7, 8 - "All kinds of animals ... have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison."

3. MY TONGUE DISPLAYS _____ .

It's inconsistent: vs. 9

v. 10 - "Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be."

v. 11 - "Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ... can a fig tree bear olives or a grapevine bear figs?"

THE PROBLEM: _____

Matthew 12:34 - "For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks."

(See also Matt. 15:18-19)

II. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

1. _____

Ezekiel 18:31 - "Rid yourself of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit!"

(Refer also to 2 Cor. 5:17)

2. _____

Psalms 141:3 - "Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips." (Refer also to Psalm 19:14)

3. _____

James 1:19 - "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry."