



Rice Memorial MBC

Pastor J. Harper, President of State Convention  
Apostle Walter Camp, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Minister Danny Current, Dean of Christian Education  
Pastor Michael Hansberry, Southern District Moderator

### **Rice Memorial Missionary Baptist Church**

Apostle Walter F. Camp, Presiding Senior Pastor  
Pastor David K. Baker III, 2<sup>nd</sup> Presiding  
802 W. 15<sup>th</sup>, Little Rock, AR 72202, 501-416-5894

[www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org](http://www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org)

## **Control your Speech**

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance  
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition  
or Roget's Thesaurus - **February 23, 2014**

## **James 3:1-12**

**Introduction:** The apostle here reproves ambition, and an arrogant magisterial tongue; and shows the duty and advantage of bridling it because of its power to do mischief. Those who profess religion ought especially to govern their tongues, James 3:1-12. True wisdom makes men **meek**, and **avoiders** of **strife** and **envy**: and hereby it may easily be distinguished from a wisdom that is earthly and hypocritical, James 3:13-18.  
*Source: The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible classic.studylight.org/com/mhc*

**James 3:1**, My brethren, be **not** many **masters** (an instructor: --doctor, **teacher**), knowing that **WE** shall receive the **greater** **condemnation** (damnation.).

**NOTE:** Some of James' readers, perhaps many of them, had come out of **Judaism**; and the characteristic of many of those was described by Paul in Rom. 2:17-24, to the effect that their total lack of any true qualification did not deter their **conceited** and **arrogant** assumption of the office of "**teacher**" for all mankind! The **Judaizers** who attempted to graft the forms and ceremonies of Mosaic law upon the church were a particularly troublesome element of the church which sorely needed the caution here expressed by James. Paul likewise addressed stern words to this group, thus, "**Some** ... have turned **aside** unto vain **talking**, **desiring** to be **teachers** of the **law**, though they **understand** neither what they **say**, nor whereof they confidently affirm" (1 Timothy 1:7).

*(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)*

**Mark 12:38-40**, And he (*Jesus*) said unto them in his doctrine, **Beware** of the **scribes**, which love to go in long clothing, and love **salutations** in the marketplaces, And the chief seats in the synagogues... the uppermost rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a **pretence** make long prayers: these shall receive greater **damnation**.

**2 Timothy 2:15-18**, **Study** to shew thyself **approved** unto **God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly** dividing the word of truth. But **shun** profane and vain **babblings**: for they will increase unto more **ungodliness**. And their **word** will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have **erred**, SAYING that the resurrection is past already; and **overthrow** the **faith** of some.

**James 3:2**, For in many things we **offend** all. If any **man** offend **not** in **word** (something said including the **thought**, **doctrine**.), the **same** is a **PERFECT** man...

**Perfect** defined 5046, complete (in various applications of growth, mental and moral character, etc.); completeness:-- of **FULL AGE**, **man** (of adult growth), **perfect** (finished; consummate; having all that is requisite to its nature and kind).

**Thought 1.** James gives us another set of verses that help us, first, understand that perfection can be achieved. And next, it let's us know HOW to recognize when that's taken place. He gives us one of God's many indicators of what's done by a perfect man!

**Matthew 5:43-44, 46-48,** Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and HATE thine **enemy**. But I say unto you, **LOVE** your **enemies**, **Bless** (kind wishes, uttered in favor of) them that curse you, DO good to them that **HATE** you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and **persecute** you; ...For if ye love them which **love** you, what REWARD have ye? do not even the **publicans** the same? And if ye **salute** your **brethren only**, what do ye MORE than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore **perfect**, even **AS** your **Father** which is in **heaven** IS **perfect**.

**Thought 2.** This verse, among many, makes plain that to LOVE each other is NOT the ultimate, or highest point in love to humans. Even sinners love those that love them! So, our growth should continue to where we can even LOVE our ENEMIES!

**James 3:2** ... and **able** also to **bridle (to curb [to restrain, to guide])** the **whole body**.

**NOTE:** We are taught to govern our tongue so as to prove ourselves **perfect** and **upright** men, and such as have an entire government over ourselves: If any man offend not in word, the same is a **perfect man**, and **able** also to bridle the whole body. It is here implied that he whose conscience is affected by tongue-sins, and who takes care to avoid them, is an upright man, and has an undoubted sign of true grace. But, on the other hand, if a man seemeth to be religious (as was declared in the first chapter) and bridleth not his tongue, whatever profession he makes, that man's religion is vain. Further, he that offends not in word will not only prove himself a sincere Christian, but a very much **advanced** and **improved** Christian. For the wisdom and grace which enable him to rule his tongue will enable him also to **RULE ALL** his actions. *Source: The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible classic.studylight.org/com/mhc)*

**Proverbs 21:23,** Whoso **keepeth (attend to)** his **mouth (in MIND)** and his **tongue (speech)** keepeth his SOUL from troubles.

**Thought 1.** He did not say that proper "attending to" what's IN our minds would keep us OUT OF trouble. Actually, when we obey God, it WILL often get us into trouble with those that disagree with what he's having us do. However, that does not mean our SOULS have to be troubled when that happens.

Things can only affect our minds negatively; IF we LET them. And we let them IF we don't HAVE the SKILL to attend to our minds properly.

**John 14:1,** Let not your **heart (thoughts or feelings (mind))** be **troubled**: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

**Acts 16:23-25,** And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into **prison**, charging the **jailor** to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the **stocks**. And at midnight **Paul** and **Silas** **prayed**, and **SANG** praises unto God (*due to reverence*): and the prisoners heard them.

**2 Timothy 3:11-12** ...what persecutions I endured: but out of them ALL the Lord DELIVERED me. (*Paul went to say...*) Yea, and all that **will (to determine; desire, intend)** live **godly** in Christ Jesus **shall** (*NOT MUST*) suffer persecution.

**James 3:3-6**, Behold, we put **bits** in the horses' mouths, that they may **obey** us; and we **turn** about their whole body. Behold also the **ships**, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the **governor listeth (will [desire])**. Even so the **tongue** is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a **fire**, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it **defileth** the whole body, and setteth on **fire the course (a circuit of physical effects)** of nature...

**Thought 1.** James tells us that the tongue is what ends up defiling our bodies. It also can set off a chain of events that can affect nature itself and has the power of LIFE and death.

**Matthew 12:34, 36**, O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the **abundance** of the **heart (thoughts or feelings (MIND))** the **mouth** speaketh. ...But I say unto you, That every **idle (inactive; useless.)** word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

**Proverbs 18:21**, **Death** and **life** are in the **power (work, power [ability])** of the **tongue (speech)**: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

**Thought 2.** To eat fruit from the love of LIFE, we'll have to believe, and keep, God's word in our minds in abundance. And our speech and good actions will follow.

**James 3:6-8** ...and it is **set on fire of hell (place or state of everlasting punishment, hell [the power and policy of Satan])**.

For every kind of **beasts**, and of **birds**, and of **serpents**, and of things in the **sea**, is TAMED, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no MAN tame; it is an **unruly (unrestrainable, unruly [inclined to violate laws]) evil, full of deadly poison**.

**Thought 1.** Physically, the tongue cannot be tamed. But, renewing our MIND, or soul by believing God's word WILL GROW us up spiritually and make us able to control the tongue..

**Psalms 119:11**, Thy **WORD** have I hid in mine **heart**, that I might not sin against thee.

**Romans 12:2**, And be not conformed to this **world**: but be ye **transformed** by the **renewing (renovation [correct; deliver, put in order, repair].)** of your mind, that ye may **PROVE** what is that **good**, and **acceptable**, and **perfect**, **will** of God.

**Prove defined 1381, to approve** [to experience; to like and sustain as right]: **discern** [to see or understand the difference; to make distinction; as, to discern between good and evil, truth and falsehood].

**James 3:9-10**, Therewith **bless** we God, even the Father; and therewith **curse** we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the **same mouth** proceedeth  blessing and  cursing. My **brethren**, these things  **OUGHT not** so to be.

**Thought 1.** He didn't say it couldn't be, he said it should not be happening! He's making it clear that this is NOT the normal order of God's things. So, his children should not do this.

**James 3:11-12**, Doth a **fountain** send forth at the  same place  **sweet water** and  **bitter**? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield  **SALT** water and  **FRESH**.

**NOTE:** It is said that along the **Dead Sea** there were both  salt-water and  fresh-water fountains; so James made his meaning clear by adding "**from the same opening**." The illustration shows that man's behavior in blessing God and cursing men with the same tongue was a monstrous perversion of nature, in fact an altogether impossibility in nature. (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)