

JAMES 3 vs 1

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The book of James is identified with 1 Peter and 1 John as the general epistles in the early church; yet Martin Luther described it as an Epistle of straw. It seems this letter was overlooked in the church due to the fact it was not written by one of the apostles. It was written for those of a synagogue in Jerusalem, focused on Jewish people. It was not addressed to Gentile assemblies, and so, was not much quoted in the earliest period, because it did not possess the wide appeal of the Epistles of Paul..

The Untamable Tongue

¹ My brothers and sisters, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a mature man, able also to harness the whole body.

³ Now if, we put bits in horses' mouths so that they obey us, we direct their entire body.

⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are directed by a very small rudder, whenever the pilot desires.

⁵ So also the tongue is a small part of the body, yet boasts of great things.

See how great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

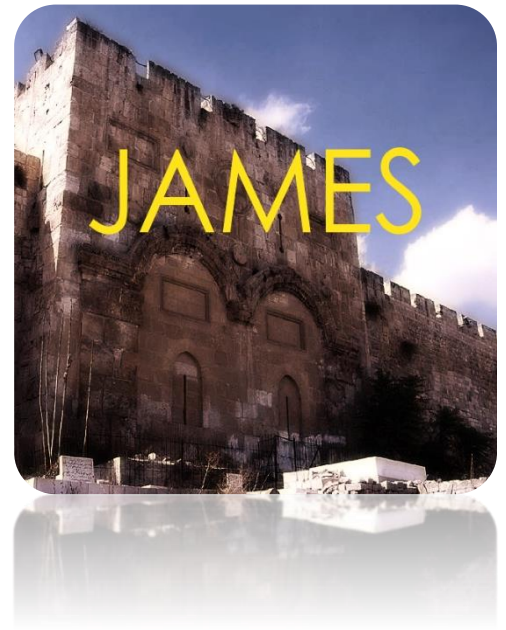
⁶ And so the tongue is a fire, setting ablaze a world of wrongdoing. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of our life; and it is set on fire by Gehenna.

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 an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With it we speak good words to our God and Father, **and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God.**

¹⁰ From the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, these things ought not to be so.



11 Does a spring send out of the same opening both fresh and bitter water?

12 Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can salt water produce fresh.

Heavenly Versus Demonic Wisdom

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by good conduct that his deeds are done in the kindness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be arrogant and lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

16 For where envy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

18 And the seed whose fruit is rightness,

is sown in peace by those who make peace.

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