

I. James speaks on the importance of self-control: vs. 1- 12

- A. Teachers have a great responsibility.
 - 1. A man who is out of control cannot be a great teacher.
 - 2. Teachers face a serious judgment.
 - 3. We must give an account to God.
 - 4. Don't rush into the "teacher" position.
 - 5. Many people are not qualified to teach.
- B. The teacher must be in control. The teacher must be mature.
 - 1. Some teachers offend in all areas.
 - 2. If a teacher does not offend in word, he/she is mature.
- C. James gives two illustrations: vs. 3 - 5
 - 1. How do we control a horse? We put a bit (a small piece of metal attached to the bridle) in his mouth. This allows us to turn the horse's whole body.
 - 2. How do we control a ship? With a very small helm (the tiller or wheel used to turn the rudder of a ship. The rudder is the flat frame fastened vertically to the stern – back of – the ship.)
 - a. The governor of the ship leans on the helm to turn the rudder.
 - b. The rudder controls the way the ship goes.
 - c. When the ship is not controlled, it is driven by the wind.
 - d. The governor controls the ship when the helm is applied.
- D. The tongue, a little part of the body, boasts and does great things: vs. 5 – 8
 - 1. Hearing people wrongly use their tongues to gossip, lie, blaspheme, boast, etc.
 - 2. Deaf people wrongly use their hands to sign gossip, lies, blasphemies, boastings, etc.
 - 3. Your speech and your signs can start problems. These, like fire, can spread and destroy.
- E. A great contradiction: vs. 13-16
 - 1. Man can tame all kinds of animals, but cannot tame the tongue.
 - 2. The tongue blesses God, but curses men.
 - 3. Two different messages should not come from the same mouth.
 - 4. Trees and vines produce according to their nature.
 - 5. Christians should produce according to the nature of Christ. Do they? Do you?
 - 6. A fountain cannot give sweet water and bitter or salt water at the same time.

II. Faith produces wisdom: vs. 13 – 16

- A. A wise man shows his wisdom in his daily life.
- B. Evil is in the heart. Don't try to hide it.
 - 1. Don't lie against the truth.
 - 2. Don't glory in evil.
 - 3. Evil does not come from God.
- C. Wisdom that comes from God is pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be intreated (entreated), full of mercy, without partiality, without hypocrisy. v. 17
- D. Blessed are the peacemakers. v. 18