

THE TONGUE James 3:1-12

INTRO: Doctor first examines tongue. It often reveals condition inside. The Bible makes control of the tongue a matter of great importance. MATT. 12:37 PROV. 18:21

v. 2 is Devastating!

I. THE TONGUE IS THE CRITERIA BY WHICH LIFE IS JUDGED. V. 2

How different is God's standard from ours. James 1:26

WHY? Matt. 12:34. The heart expresses itself mainly through the tongue. *37 words are windows thru which we see into heart.*

CONTROL OF THE TONGUE IS:

1. Sign of Spiritual Maturity--"perfect" *in many things we all sin*
2. Secret of Self-Mastery --"able to bridle whole body" If you are unable to control your tongue, you have other discipline problems, also. The door is opened to other sins.

II. THE TONGUE IS THE COMPASS BY WHICH OUR LIFE JOURNEYS. V. 3,4

I Peter 3:10; Prov. # 21:23... *Horse Helm* tongue sets the direction of your life. *The use of Tongue determines*

- 1- a life of discipline *Horse* v. 3. y 2 = wild, runaway
- 2- a sign of direction - Helm
1 Peter 3:10; Prov 21:23

III. THE TONGUE IS THE CURSE BY WHICH OUR LIFE IS JEOPORDIZED.
Vv. 5-12

1. Defiles own life --v. 6 Bitterness, cynical spirit --"can't throw mud without getting hands dirty."

(1) By inconsistency --v. 10

(2) By Insincerity -- v. 11.

2. Destroys life of others. v.6,8. fire and snake venom

(1) By malicious talk --FIRE: a. spreads, b. uncontrollable
* c. irreparable.

(2) By Misleading talk