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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **James 3:1**

**My brethren,
be not many
teachers,
knowing that
we shall receive
the greater
condemnation.**

- In the first century as the Church began to grow **there were many dangers.**

- For one, **the Jewish Rabbi** moved from **Judaism** to **Christianity.**

- And this presented an **ever present danger.**

- For the Rabbi was treated in a way that was liable to ruin the character of any man.
- His very name means, "My great one."

- Everywhere he went he was **treated with the utmost respect.**

- It was actually held that a man's duty to his Rabbi **exceeded his duty to his parents.**

- Because his parents only brought him into **the life of this world**

- But his teacher brought him into **the life of the world to come.**

- **It was desperately easy**
for a Rabbi to become
the kind of person
whom Jesus depicted:
 - **A spiritual tyrant.**
 - A lover of the
highest place
at any function,
 - A person who gloried
in the respect
showed to him in public
(**Matthew 23:4-7**).

- Every teacher runs the risk of becoming that type of person Jesus described.
- No profession is more liable to beget spiritual and intellectual pride.
- Than that of the preacher.

- In the world a man/woman **must start at the bottom** and work their **way up.**
 - For the preacher **he starts at the top** and in some cases sadly works himself **to the bottom.**

- **There are two dangers**
which every teacher
must avoid.
 - **# 1** He must not
teach his own opinions
or distort the truth.
 - **# 2** He must take every care
not to contradict
his teaching by his life.

- It is James' warning that the teacher **is under great condemnation,** if he fails in it.
- The people to whom James was writing **coveted the prestige** of the teacher.
- James demanded that the teacher should never forget **his responsibility.**

- **James 3:2**

***For in many things
we offend all.***

If any man offend

not in word,

the same is a

mature man,

***and able also to bridle
the whole body.***

- No form of personal communication is more readily accessible **and faster than speech.**
- By **writing** we can convey our thoughts at a rate of **30 words** per minute.
- **Typing**: About **50 words** per minute.
 - **Text** up to **60 words** per minute.
 - But **speaking** can easily achieve **150 words** per minute!

- Both men and women speak an average of 16,000 words a day.
 - The claim that women speak twice as much as men is an urban legend.
 - Sorry, Guys !!

- James sets down two ideas which were woven into Jewish thought and literature.

- # 1 Sin is so often not deliberate but the result of a slip up when we are off our guard.

- This universality of sin runs all through the Bible.

- **Romans 3:10**

*There is **none** righteous,
no, not one:*

- **Romans 3:23**

*For **all** have sinned,
and come short of
the glory of God;*

- ***"If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us"
(1John 1:8).***

- ***"There is not
a righteous man on earth
who does good
and never sins,"
(Ecclesiastes 7:20).***

- # 2 There is no room for pride in human life,
- For there is not a man upon this earth who has not some blot of which to be ashamed.

- Even the pagan writers have the same conviction of sin.

- "It is the nature of man to sin both in private and in public life,"
said Thucydides (3: 45).

- "We all sin,"
said Seneca,
"some more grievously,
some more lightly"
(On Clemency 1: 6).

- **James 3:3**

Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

- **3:4** *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,...*

- James is not saying that silence is better than speech.
- He is pleading for the control of the tongue.

- Speech is a wonderful gift from God.

- When used properly, it can do marvelous things.

- Words that are carefully chosen

have rallied the people together,
built nations,
and brought
peace and prosperity.

- Some of history's **greatest speeches** have been recorded for posterity:
 - **Lincoln's Gettysberg address** in 1863
 - **Churchill's orations** that rallied battle-weary England against German invasion.

- But speech is a sword that cuts both ways.
 - It has destroyed marriages and families.
 - It has misled and deceived millions of people.
 - It has incited war and rebellion.
- And it has caused untold misery, death and destruction.

- **There are a variety of ways**
to commit sin by what we say:
 - Telling **lies**.
 - **False** accusations,
 - **Boasting**,
 - **Vulgar speech**,
 - **Cursing**,
 - **Backbiting, etc**
 - **Just to name a few.**

- Just think of those moments when you have lashed out at someone in anger,
- Or deliberately slanted the truth in your own favor,
 - And then you will realize how difficult it is to bridle your tongue.

- So James says that it is **a great accomplishment** to bridle or control the tongue..
- Such a person is considered to be **a perfect man.**
 - A believer who has **developed spiritual maturity.**
 - This is how you can tell **if you have grown spiritually**
 - How well you control **your unruly tongue.**

- **James 3:5**

Even so the tongue is

a little member,

and boasts great things.

- **Behold, how great a matter
a little fire kindles!**

- **3:6 And the tongue is a fire,
a world of iniquity:**

- **it defiles the whole body,**

- **and sets on fire the course of nature;**

- **and it is set on fire of hell.**

- And sets on fire
the course of nature...

(James 3:6 KJV)

- **James 3:6** (NET)

“and sets fire to the
course of human existence...”

- That it is
a life long battle.

- We always tell kids,
“Don't play with matches,
or else you might
burn the whole house down
and hurt many people.”

- Let it be know
that our tongue
is able to do
far worse than that!

- **James 3:7**

**For every kind of beasts,
and of birds, and of serpents,
and of things in the sea,
is tamed,
and has been tamed of
mankind:**

- James now compares the tongue
to a wild animal
that no man can ever tame.

- Notice that it says that **no man can tame the tongue.**
- But what is impossible with man **is entirely possible with God.**
(**Luke 18:27**)
 - And we need God's help **to tame it**
and **bring it under control.**

- There can be no change in our speech until our heart is regenerated.

- Notice verse 12:

- “*Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs?*”

- The answer is of course, No.

- The only way

- to change

the fruit of a tree is to change the nature of the tree itself.

- The only way to change our speech **is to change our sinful heart.**

- And that is something **only God can do.**

- After the heart **is regenerated**
or
renewed

it will gradually give rise to a changed life.

- How is one regenerated?
 - It is not some miraculous operation of the Holy Spirit.
 - However, the Spirit does play a part.
 - How might that be?

- **Colossians 3:5** (NET)

So put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the earth: sexual immorality, impurity, shameful passion, evil desire, and greed which is idolatry.

- **3:6** Because of these things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience.
- **3:7** You also lived your lives in this way at one time, when you used to live among them.
- **3:8** But now, put off all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth.
- **3:9** Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with its practices
- **3:10** and have been clothed with the new man that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it.

- **Philippians 4:8**
*Finally, brethren,
whatsoever things are:*

- *True,*

- *Honest,*

- *Just,*

- *Pure,*

- *lovely,*

- *of good report;*

- *think on these things.*

- **What are you thinking?**

- What did Jesus say?

- “A good man

**out of the good treasure of his heart
brings forth that which is good;**

- and an evil man

**out of the evil treasure
of his heart**

brings forth that which is evil:

**for of the abundance
of the heart**

his mouth speaks.”

(Luke 6:45)

- **James 3:5**

” *...the tongue is a little member, and boas great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindles!*

- **3:6** *And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

- One of the largest forest fires of all time **is the Great Fire of 1910.**
 - Called: “**Big Burn**”,
and the
“**Devil's Broom**”
- This fire burned over **3,000,000 acres**
in three different states.
 - It affected ten national forests.
 - **It killed 87 people.**
- **Cause**: sparks that flew off of a train.
 - **Just small embers.**
 - What harm could they do?

- **James 3:14**

“***lie not against the truth.***”

- Truthfulness is essential
in courts of law.

- A court of law can mete out justice
only as far as the
witnesses are truthful.

- There can be
no justice
if no one is truthful.

- Ascertaining the truth is so crucial to the process of justice, that perjury or lying to the court is punished severely.
 - But the most severe punishment for lying comes from God, the Highest Judge of all.

- **Revelation 21:8** (NET)

But as for the cowards, unbelievers, detestable persons, murderers, the sexually immoral, and those who practice magic spells, idol worshipers,

- **and all those who lie,**
- ***their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur.***
- ***That is the second death.***”

- Why does God hate lying and liars?

- Because He is the God of truth.

- That is what He calls Himself four times in Scripture:

- The God of truth!

(Deuteronomy 32:3; Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 65:16)

- As God's children we are to reflect

this same characteristic in our life.

- Truthfulness may not matter very much to a world that thrives on **deceit** and **falsehood**,
- And where the truth **is often hidden** for the most selfish reasons.

- **David asks a probing question.**

- ***LORD, who shall abide
in your tabernacle?...***

- ***He that walks uprightly, and works
righteousness, and speaks the truth..***

- ***He that backbites not with his tongue,
nor does evil to his neighbor....***

- ***He that swears
to his own hurt,
and changes not.***

(Psalm 15:1-5)

- Whatever we say **must be said in love** and not in malice.
(**Ephesians 4:15**)

- Speaking the truth in love will **edify** and **encourage** others.

- Truth without love is **cold** and **hard**.

- Speaking truth without love **hurts** rather than **helps**.

- **1 Corinthians 13:1**

Speaking without love
is like

'sounding brass

or a

tinkling cymbal'.

- It makes one nothing
but an irritating noise-maker.
- That is why we must examine our hearts before correcting a friend or brother who has sinned.

- According to **Philippians 1:10**, one of the things that Paul desired to see in the lives of the Philippian believers **was sincerity.**

- He prayed,
“***...that they may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.***”

- According to James 3:9
one of the proper uses of the tongue
is to bless God.

- “*Therewith bless we God,
even the Father...*”

- It is inconsistent
to curse men
with the same tongue
that blesses God,

- The reason:
Since all are made
in the image of God..

- There is nothing bad about having a sense of humor.
- Humor itself is good.
 - Our Lord Himself used some humor at times.

- **Psalm 59:8**

- **But You, O Lord, laugh at them;**
 - **You scoff at all the nations.**

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- **Psalm 2:4**

- **He who sits in the heavens laughs,**
 - **The Lord scoffs at them.**

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- **Psalm 37:13**

- **The Lord laughs at him,**
 - **For He sees his day is coming.**

- **Wisdom from Above**

James 3:13-14 (NET)

**Who is wise and understanding
among you?**

**By his good conduct he should show
his works done in the gentleness
that wisdom brings.**

- **3:14** **But if you have bitter jealousy
and selfishness in your hearts,
do not boast and tell lies
against the truth.**

Wisdom from Above

- **James 3:15-16** (NET)

- **3:15** Such wisdom does not come from above but is earthly, natural, demonic.

- **3:16** For where there is jealousy and selfishness, there is disorder and every evil practice.

Wisdom from Above

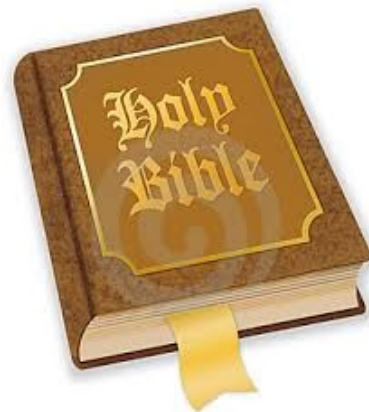
- **James 3:17-18** (NET)
- **3:17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, accommodating, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and not hypocritical.
 - **3:18** And the fruit that consists of righteousness is planted in peace among those who make peace.

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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