

## The Perfect Man Part 2

James 1:19,26; 3:1-12

### Eternal consequences for leading men in the wrong direction.

- **1 Timothy 1:3-7** - strife and questions follow such teaching.
- Paul warned the Ephesian elders, ***“And from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.” (Acts 20:30)***
- Those who taught the Gentiles to be circumcised were ***“subverting your souls.” (cf. Acts 15:22-24)***

### Eternal consequences for leading men in the wrong direction.

- Hymenaeus and Philetus erred, ***“saying that the resurrection is past already, and overthrow the faith of some.” (2 Timothy 2:14-18)***
- Peter said of false teachers, ***“And many shall follow their lascivious doings; by reason of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of.” (2 Peter 2:2)***
- Paul wrote, ***“This I say, that no one may delude you with persuasiveness of speech.” (Colossians 2:4)***

### Eternal consequences for leading men in the wrong direction.

- Little comfort in saying, ***“But I didn’t know ...”***

### Effect NOT Determined By Motive Of Teacher

- Philippians 1:15-18  
Motive Wrong – Teaching right.
- Galatians 1:13-14; Acts 23:1; 26:9;  
1 Timothy 1:13  
Motive right – Teaching wrong.

### “For in many things we all stumble...” James 3:2

- Sin is universal (**Romans 3:23**), YET among all men, the sins of the tongue seem to be most universal and the most difficult to control.
- Teachers must be careful for ...
  - **WHAT** they teach
  - and **cf. Ephesians 6:19; Colossians 4:4-6**
  - **HOW** they teach

Man who tames his tongue is a  
***“perfect man.”***

### Tongue is small but powerful ... James 3:3-6

- Illustrations:
  - Bit in horse's mouth.
  - Small rudder of a great ship.
- Speak a lie, live a lie.
- Speak suggestively in an immoral manner, live immorally.

### Consider also the destructive effect of the tongue when it is not controlled.

- Truly, *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue ...” (Proverbs 18:21)*
- *“How much wood is kindled by how small a fire! The tongue is a fire: the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue.” (James 3:6)*
- *“An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends” (KJV Proverbs 16:27-28). cf. Galatians 5:15*

### Difficulty Of Taming The Tongue James 3:7-8

- *“The tongue can no man tame ...”* Hyperbole (of language) deliberately exaggerated.
- NOTE: Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6
- David said, *“Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile”* and then prayed that God might *“set a watch ... before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips” (Psalms 34:13; 141:3).*
- Peter wrote, *“For he that would love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile” (1 Peter 3:10).*

### Difficulty Of Taming The Tongue James 3:7-8

- *“It is a restless evil ...”* Unstable. Like a caged beast, it seeks opportunity to break forth and cause havoc and destruction.
- *“It is full of deadly poison ...”*
  - *“They have sharpened their tongue like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips” (Psalms 140:3).*
  - Quoting from *Psalms 5:9*, he uses a similar metaphor: *“The poison of asps is under their lips” (Romans 3:13).*

### The perverse tongue is inconsistent. James 3:9-12

- What arrogance: one looks up to God with blessing, then down to man, made in God's image, with cursing.
- The Psalmist wrote of those who *“delight in lies,”* who *“bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly” (Psalms 62:4).*
- *“These things ought not so to be.”*