

***Body Parts***  
***Making Sure That We Honor God with All of Us***



# ***Body Parts***

- *Our Ears*
- *Our Eyes*
- *Our Tongues (part 4)*
- *Our Hands*
- *Our Feet*
- *Our Hearts*



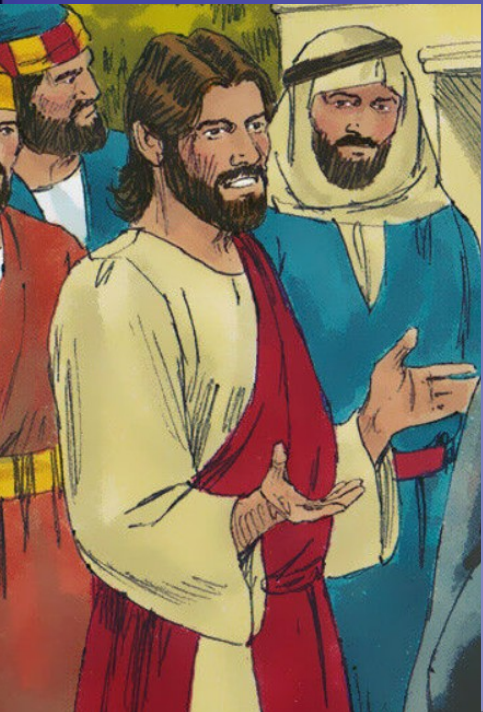
# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - “My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires...” (*James 1:19-20*)
    - “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.” (*James 1:26*)
    - So how important did James seem to think this topic is?
      - Do you agree? Why or why not?
        - What does James 2:12-13 say about how we should speak and act... and why?
          - How can we be “judged by the law that gives freedom”—isn't that a contradiction?  
(i.e.; are we free to choose how to act, or are we judged by our actions?)



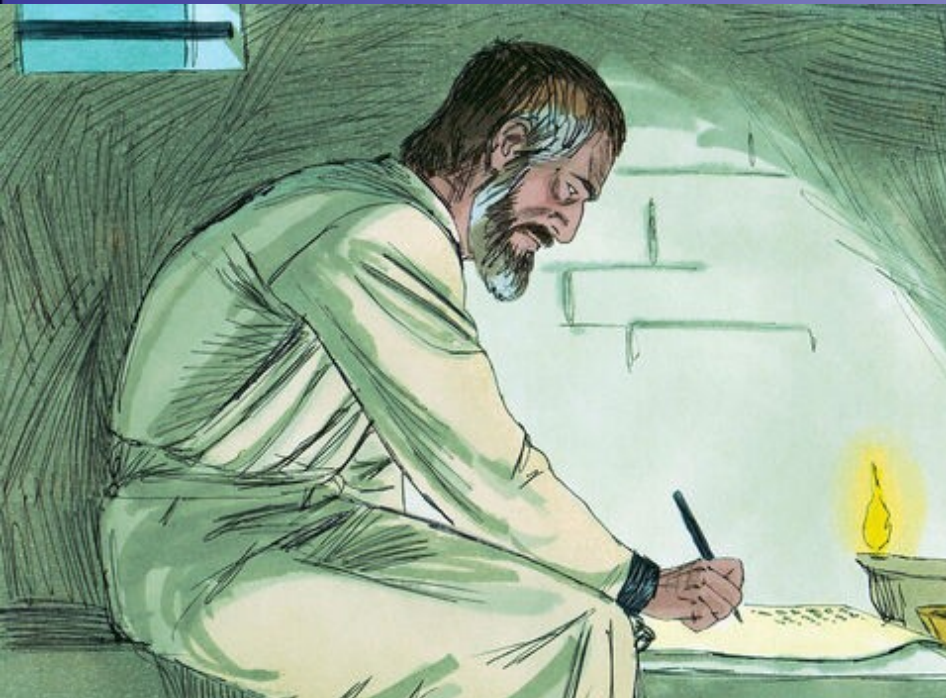
# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - “My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires...” (*James 1:19-20*)
    - “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.” (*James 1:26*)
    - So how important did James seem to think this topic is?
      - Do you agree? Why or why not?
        - What does James 2:12-13 say about how we should speak and act... and why?
          - How can we be “judged by the law that gives freedom”—isn't that a contradiction?
          - How can the same verse say both “judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful” and “mercy triumphs over judgment”—isn't *that* a contradiction? (or is that another way of saying, “judge not, lest you be judged,” etc.—i.e.; that mercy trumps judgment, so show *mercy* instead of *judgy-ness* unless you want to *receive judgy-ness*)



# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - What does James say in James 3:1?
      - Do you agree? Why or why not?
        - Why does that paint a particularly bright and colorful target onto the backs of people like... well... *me*...?
        - How is this the *negative* version of what Paul told young Pastor Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12?
        - Or what Paul told Pastor Titus in Titus 2:7?
          - How does *that* reflect what Peter told all of us in 1 Peter 2:12?
    - How is *all* this a point/counterpoint to what Paul told Pastor Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:17?
      - So is it *good* to be a teacher—to stand up and tell others, “This is wisdom that you should listen to”—or not?



# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - What does James say in James 3:1?
    - What about in James 3:2?
      - Isn't James writing this to *Christians*? Christians never stumble in any ways, do we?
        - Jesus told us to “be perfect” (*Matthew 5:48*) (that's what God *genuinely* wants us to do)
        - But James reminds us that we're *not* perfect (that's what God *knows* that we'll *actually* do)
        - So how do we live out that disparity without just shrugging it off one way or the other?
          - How should knowing *both* of those **T**ruths consciously affect the way(s) that we communicate to others?



# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - What does James say in James 3:1?
    - What about in James 3:2?
    - Please read James 3:3-5
      - What three analogies does James use, and how are they related?
        - The tongue is like a horse's bit because \_\_\_\_\_
        - The tongue is like a ship's rudder because \_\_\_\_\_
        - The tongue is like a spark in a forest because \_\_\_\_\_
        - Are these all *bad* things?
          - If not, then what *are* they?
          - So give examples of ways that we can use our tongues (consciously or unconsciously) to affect bigger things (positively or negatively)



# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - What does James say in James 3:1?
    - What about in James 3:2?
    - Please read James 3:3-5
    - Please read James 3:6
      - Why does James think that the tongue is just about the most evil part of your body?
        - Unpack what he says about it—
          - How can the tongue corrupt the whole person—didn't Jesus say that it just pours out what's already in your heart?
          - How can the tongue set the whole course of a person's life on fire? [*HINT: think "zombie crisis"*]
          - How is the tongue often itself set on fire by hell?





# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - What does James say in James 3:1?
    - What about in James 3:2?
    - Please read James 3:3-5
    - Please read James 3:6
      - Why does James think that the tongue is just about the most evil part of your body?
        - Unpack what he says about it
        - If it really is deceptively super-powerful, and if it really is this naturally self-corrupting, then how important is taming your tongue?
          - If it's that important, then how consciously are you and I working on taming it each day?



# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - What does James say in James 3:1?
    - What about in James 3:2?
    - Please read James 3:3-5
    - Please read James 3:6
    - Please read James 3:7-8
      - Can you tame your tongue?
        - So should we even *try* to self-discipline?
          - *HINT*: Put this section into its context within the larger book
            - Chapter 2 was all about James' argument that you show your Christianity by what you *actually do* (i.e.; that “good works” should flow from a redeemed life—and that you're doing something wrong if you think that you can have a vertical relationship with God that doesn't outflow into your horizontal life)



# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - What does James say in James 3:1?
    - What about in James 3:2?
    - Please read James 3:3-5
    - Please read James 3:6
    - Please read James 3:7-8
      - Can you tame your tongue?
        - So should we even *try* to self-discipline?
          - *HINT*: Put this section into its context within the larger book
            - Chapter 2 was all about James' argument that you show your Christianity by what you *actually do*
            - Chapter 3 ends with a crucial observation: "the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere" (*James 3:17*)



# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - What does James say in James 3:1?
    - What about in James 3:2?
    - Please read James 3:3-5
    - Please read James 3:6
    - Please read James 3:7-8
      - Can you tame your tongue?
        - So should we even *try* to self-discipline?
          - *HINT*: Put this section into its context within the larger book
            - Chapter 2 was all about James' argument that you show your Christianity by what you *actually do*
            - Chapter 3 ends with a crucial observation and Chapter 4 makes our problem clear—  
“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ... Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.”  
(James 4:1, 7-8)



# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - What does James say in James 3:1?
    - What about in James 3:2?
    - Please read James 3:3-5
    - Please read James 3:6
    - Please read James 3:7-8
      - Can you tame your tongue?
        - So should we even *try* to self-discipline?
          - *HINT*: Put this section into its context within the larger book
            - Chapter 2 was all about James' argument that you show your Christianity by what you *actually do*
            - Chapter 3 ends with a crucial observation and Chapter 4 makes our problem clear
            - So what does the context of this pericope suggest about how we should go about dealing with the “tongues” issues in our lives?



# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - What does James say in James 3:1?
    - What about in James 3:2?
    - Please read James 3:3-5
    - Please read James 3:6
    - Please read James 3:7-8
    - Please read James 3:9-12
      - If the whole point of all of this is that your tongue is the most pointed indicator of where your heart is at with the Lord—  
(i.e.; that your words are naturally outpouring what's already in your heart, yet also feeding back into your heart to affect your spiritual life, positively and negatively)



# Our Tongues

- How important are our tongues—i.e.; the words that our lips and mouths form?
  - What did Jesus' little brother, James, say?
    - What does James say in James 3:1?
    - What about in James 3:2?
    - Please read James 3:3-5
    - Please read James 3:6
    - Please read James 3:7-8
    - Please read James 3:9-12
      - If the whole point of all of this is that your tongue is the most pointed indicator of where your heart is at with the Lord, then how are these verses a good “litmus test” about where your heart is at?
        - Give examples of how we too often fail at verse 9—how do we too easily slide into the *wrong* side of a binary situation and not even see it?
        - Given all of what we've seen in James, how can we work on doing all of this the *right* way... as well as being alert to where we might stumble?

