

## "The Tongue"

An exposition of James 3 : 2-12

**Subject: "How to Stop a Keen sense of Rumour"**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9th, 1990

- The tongue is an incredibly influential force (James 3: 1-5a):—
  - For evil. The crime sheets of the tongue includes: Dishonesty. Unkindness. Flattery. Impurity. Blasphemy. Pride. Criticism. Exaggeration. Temper. Greed. Slander. Boasting.
  - For good. The tongue under the Holy Spirit's control can be used to communicate; Encouragement. Love. Comfort. Wisdom. Inspiration. The Gospel. Praise. Blessing.
- The tongue can be an incredibly raging fire (James 3: 5b-6). Notice that James points out:—
  - The potential of the tongue; "A world of iniquity".
  - The stain of the tongue's pollution; "It defiles the whole body".
  - The sphere of the tongue's penetration; "It sets the whole course of life on fire".
  - The source of the tongue's power; "It is set on fire by hell".
- The flame of rumour and how to stop it:—
  - Identify sources by name.
  - Support evidence with facts.
  - Ask the person "May I quote you?".
  - Openly admit that you don't appreciate hearing rumours.
- The humanly untameable tongue (James 3: 7-10):—
  - It is capable of terrible injury; "Full of deadly poison".
  - It is capable of treacherous inconsistency; "It praises God and curses men".
- The key to better communication is to be a good listener and then to let your tongue be a fountain of life rather than a babbling brook (Proverbs 10: 11). See back page for the Ten Commandments for Better Listening.



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