

Charis Christian Centre

Prayer Pointers:-

- 1. Pray for the 300 over church campers. (6th to 9th June)**
 - that God will anoint Ps Cornelius and Ps Deborah in a mighty way to preach and to minister.**
 - that every camper will be blessed and will not have any last minute hinderances.**
- 2. Pray for the proposed renovation and extension of our church.**
 - all plans to be approved and smoothly carried out.**
 - for God's wisdom and provision to all the finances needed**
 - for all of God's people to arise and build His church.**
- 3. Pray for our intention to spread out via...**
 - * the community/evangelism outreach work at the Sri Johor flats.**
 - * the outreach to the nurses around the Taman Segar Perdana vicinity.**
 - Breakthroughs and wisdom and more volunteers.**
- 4. Anyone sick, or in need of prayer support for a current trial.**
 - Come out and let the rest lay hands and proclaim God's healing and divine intervention.**

BOOK OF JAMES- LESSON 9

SCRIPTURE TEXT:- JAMES 1:26-27
THEME: "THE MEASURE OF A CHRISTIAN."

James 1:26 – "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless."

How we measure up as a person is dependent on how we speak. Our tongue is our greatest asset and also our greatest liability.

A. Tongue – Our Greatest Liability.

There are various measurements which can be used to evaluate the depth of our Christian experience. But none is comprehensive and revealing as how we use our tongue. This is understandable. According to statisticians, the average person spends at least one fifth of his life talking! Ordinarily, in a single day, enough words are used to fill a fifty page book. In one year's time, the average person's words would fill 132 books, each containing 400 pages!

“If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue...”

- The word “tight rein” is used by a person who is holding a tight rein on a horse. In other words, we are advised to _____ in order to keep our tongue under control.

James elaborates more of the tongue in chapter 3.

* **“When we put bits in the mouths of horse to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder whenever the pilot wants to go.” James 3:3-5**

* **“Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.” James 3:5.**

* **“The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.” James 3:6.**

* **“All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.” James 3:7-8.**

Question:- Why is there so much poison in this little “six inch tongue” sometimes? What causes it? Discuss.

B. Tongue – Our Greatest Asset.

As is so often true, a person’s greatest weakness can also be his greatest strength. So it is with the tongue. Though we are capable of inflicting great hurt upon others, we can also use it to bring healing to men’s hearts. No Christian, of course, is perfect. We can never achieve God’s standard of righteousness in a complete sense. **“We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.” (James 3:2)**

James 1:26 says, "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is useless."

Question:- What does religion got to do with our tongue? Discuss.

Question:- How can we change the way we use our tongue?

Proverbs 25:11 – "A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

Proverbs 16"24 – "Pleasant words are a honey com, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."

James 1:27- Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this; to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

The above verse is clear. For us to be 'authentic' in our beliefs, we must match our good works with a sanctified life (keep from being polluted by the world.)

LY/200509