

3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

3:3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

3:4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

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

3:7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

3:8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

3:9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.

3:10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

3:11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?

3:12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

Good morning everyone.

It seems like the season has moved on so quickly, even though just a few days ago we were turning on the air conditioner every day when the temperature was over 30 degrees Celsius and it was so hot and humid. The high temperatures have been in the low 20's and the lows in the single digits on some days. Please take care of your health.

We are now in the third chapter of the Book of James.

This book of James teaches us what kind of faith we need to have in order to have true and living faith, a faith that is alive and active in us and gives us the fruit of salvation in our lives. Let us read with anticipation today.

1 My brethren. 1 My brethren, many of you should not be teachers. For we know well that we

teachers will be judged more severely than others.

When I read verse 1, I am truly in awe and trembling in my heart. It is a word of admonition and self-exhortation to teachers.

2 We all make many mistakes. If there is one who is without error in speech, he is a perfect person who is able to control his whole body.

We may experience, see, or hear for ourselves that we make mistakes with our words. Words, once out of our mouths, cannot be brought back in. With words in a letter, you can rewrite it over and over again, but with words, even if you rewrite them, you cannot take back the previous words. We make many mistakes, but the mistakes that are most easily made are the ones that come out of our mouths, and although words are something we say without stopping forty times, sometimes those casual words can sting the heart of the other person and cause great pain. Words can be misused. Words can be a mistake of expression, a misstatement, or they can be a true reflection of our true feelings. A person's true nature can be revealed in a moment's words. Therefore, he who controls his words controls his mind, and he is the perfect person who is able to do everything that can go wrong in every part of his body.

3 If you put a gag over a horse's mouth to control it, you can turn its whole body around; but if you put a gag over a horse's mouth to control it, you can turn its whole body around.

4 And look at the ship. The hull is very large, and even though it is blown about by a violent wind, it can be driven as the pilot pleases with only a very small nudge.

5 In the same way, the tongue is a small organ, but it often speaks loudly. Behold, even a very small fire burns a very large forest.

6 The tongue is a fire. It is the world of iniquity. The tongue, which is one of our organs, defiles the whole body, burns the wheels of existence, and burns itself in the fires of hell.

It is not necessary to have a small mouth to control a powerful horse, or to have many men to steer a large ship, but it is enough to have one man at the helm, even if the ship is very large and the wind is blowing violently.

Even a small fire, even a single match, can grow into a forest fire that burns as much as Tokyo Dome, and it is beyond the power of man to extinguish.

6 The tongue is a fire. It is a world of iniquity. The tongue, which is one of our organs, defiles the whole body, burns the wheels of existence, and burns itself in the fires of hell.

Thus it is written that the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity, an organ that defiles the whole body, where even the smallest slip of the tongue can burn the wheels of life, the wheels of survival, and bring about great misfortune that makes life impossible, and as a result, burns in the fires of hell. 7 It is the organ of the body that brings about all kinds of beasts, birds, and fowl.

7 Every kind of beast, bird, creeping thing, and sea creature is and has been controlled by mankind.

8 But there is no one who can control the tongue. It is an evil that is hard to control and full of deadly poison.

Man was ordained by God to name and govern all creatures in nature. Although given such great authority to control the natural world, man is unable to contain, subdue, or control his own tongue. The Bible tells us that the tongue is an uncontrollable evil, full of deadly poison, that causes evil things to be spoken and leads one's life into the danger of being plunged into the fires of hell.

You may be wondering, the Bible speaks of the "tongue" in a bad way all the time, but the tongue itself does not speak evil, harmful, or hurtful things on its own. We certainly see and hear people who are missing their heads because of their tongues, because of their words. Some may slap their own mouths, wishing they had not said that one word at that moment. But the tongue does not speak a word by itself. What comes to mind becomes words through the tongue.

Matthew 15:8 "This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.

15:9 They teach the falsehood of men, and worship Me in vain.

15:10 Then Jesus called the crowd together and said, "Hear and understand.

15:11 What goes into the mouth does not defile anyone. Instead, it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.

15:12 Then the disciples came near and said to Jesus, "Do you know that the Pharisees stumbled when they heard His words?"

15:13 Jesus answered and said to them, "Whatever my heavenly Father has not planted, it will be plucked out.

15:14 Leave them as they are. They are the blind leading the blind. If a blind man leads a blind man, they will both fall into a pit.

15:15 Peter answered and said, "Explain the parable.

15:16 Jesus said, "Do you not yet understand?"

15:17 Know ye not that whatsoever cometh into the mouth goeth into the belly, and out?

15:18 But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and it defiles a man.

15:19 For evil thoughts, that is, murder, adultery, misbehavior, theft, perjury, and slander, come out of the heart,

15:20 For these things defile a man. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

The book of James is truly filled with words that probe into our hearts and minds. What does it mean to believe? What does true faith mean?

9 With this tongue we rebuke the Lord our Father, and with the same tongue we curse man, who is made in the image of God.

10 Out of the same mouth cometh forth cursing and cursing. 10 And out of the same mouth shall come forth cursing and cursing, my brethren. Such things ought not to be.

11 Shall a fountain bring forth sweet water and bitter water out of the same pit?

12 O my brethren! Can a fig tree bring forth olives, and a vine bring forth figs? Neither can salt water bring forth sweet water.

The Bible is not only concerned with the fruit, but with the outward word. It looks at the problematic nature of the heart that produces those outward words. It is a world of iniquity, where our evil hearts defile our whole body, burning the wheels of our survival, and we ourselves will burn in the fires of hell.

On the one hand, words of praise to God come from our hearts. But on the other hand, words of cursing the brethren will come forth. Such a fountain cannot be found. The fig tree does not produce olives, and the vine does not produce figs. But our hearts may glorify God, and in the same heart we may hate and even curse our brothers.

Matthew 5:18 Say it well. For not one jot or tittle of the law shall pass away, but the whole law shall be fulfilled, until heaven and earth perish.

5:19 Therefore whoever breaks even one of these least restraints, or teaches others to do so, will be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. But he who does so, or teaches others to do

so, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

5:20 I say unto you. 5:20 For I say unto you, Except your righteousness be greater than the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall never enter into the kingdom of heaven.

5:21 For as it was said to the people of old, "Do not kill, for he who kills shall not be tried. 5:21 For ye have heard that it was said unto the people of old, Thou shalt not kill, but he that killeth shalt be tried.

5:22 But I say unto you, Whoever is angry with his brother 5:22 But I say unto you, Whosoever is angry with his brother must stand trial; and whosoever shall say unto his brother, He is a fool. And whosoever shall say unto his brother, He is a fool, shall be brought before the assembly. And he who calls him a fool shall be cast into the fire of hell.

We have such a world of iniquity and a heart full of the poison of death, an evil that is hard to control. This is the problem of human sin. This problem of sin has poisoned our hearts and poisoned our tongues to create a world of iniquity, a world of bullying, fighting, and deprivation.

To control this unrighteous, hard to control, poison filled heart, our Lord Jesus Christ died a substitutionary death on the cross. Jesus became the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. And God's offering, His blood, cleanses us.

1 John 1:1 Concerning that which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at closely and touched with our hands, the word of life--

1:2 For this life has appeared, and this eternal life we have seen, and bear witness of, and proclaim to you. This eternal life, which was with the Father, is now manifested to us-- 1:3

1:3 That is, what we have seen and heard, we proclaim to you also. 1:4 And we will preach to you also the things which we have seen and heard, that you may be partakers of our fellowship. Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1:4 We write this down so that our joy may be full.

1:5 For we have heard from Jesus, and the message we preach to you is this: God is light, and God is a little light. 1:5 For God is light, and there is no darkness in Him.

1:6 For if we say that we have fellowship with God, but walk in darkness, we deceive, and not in truth.

1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1:9 If we confess our sins, God, who is true and just, forgives them and cleanses us from all

unrighteousness.

1:10 For if we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and the word of God is not in us.

Yes, we are cleansed through the redemption of Christ Jesus. For the whole body is made bright.

Matthew 6:22 The eyes are the lamp of the body. Therefore, if your eyes are clear, your whole body will be bright.

6:23 But if your eyes are evil, your whole body will be dark. 6:23 But if your eyes are evil, your whole body will be dark; but if your inner light is dark, how dark will it be?

2 Corinthians 5:17 For if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new.

5:18 But all these things are from God. God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

5:19 For God has reconciled the world to himself in Christ, not imputing to it the guilt of its sins, but has committed to us the gospel of reconciliation.

We have been given a new start in life through the renewal of our minds. We desire to use this grace to the fullest, and as renewed, let us live a life full of love and power, by the Holy Spirit, by the celebrated wheel of life.

Romans 12:1 Brethren. For this reason I exhort you by the mercy of God. Present your bodies as a living and holy offering, holy and pleasing to God. That is the spiritual worship you should do.

12:2 Do not compromise with the world. But be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may know what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect in all things.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for today's worship. Thank you for always teaching us a lively faith, a faith full of life, a true faith that can save us. It is true that there is an abundance of evil in our hearts, and it is possible for the smallest of things to derail our lives. But you give us a renewal of mind. With cleansing from the depths of our hearts, you have transformed us into people of love overflowing with the power of life. Thank you for the redemption and salvation through Jesus, God's Son. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.