**PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING**

**A Study of the Book of James**

(James 3:1-12 - Be Tongue-Tamer)

*“Sticks and Stones Can Break My Bones, But Words Can Never Hurt Me! - Oh Yeah?*”

Introduction: You have heard people say (and maybe you yourself have said), “Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me!” Do you believe that is true or not? Why or why not? Read Proverbs 18:20-21.

**3:1-4 The Tongue - Small but Powerful**

3:1 “Not many of you should presume to be teachers” - Does this contradict Hebrews 5:11- 13?

What is the point of this verse?

3:2a We want to help others be “tongue-tamers.” This statement and Matthew 7:3-5 help us start with the right attitude, namely...

3:2b How can this be true?  Relate what the author says in this verse to what Jesus tells us in Matthew 12:33-37.

3:3-4 These illustrations say:

bit in horses’ mouths -

rudder on a ship -

spark in a forest -

**3:5-6 The Tongue Can Do Great Harm**

3:5-6 Compare these verses with Proverbs 10:18-21,31-32; 11:12-13.

What are the emotional, psychological, and spiritual consequences?

Evaluate: A fool finds no pleasure in understanding, but delights in airing his own opinions. (Proverbs 18:2)

**3:7-8 The Tongue Is Uncontrollable**

3:8 “no person can tame the tongue” - Do you think this is true? Why or why not? (Ephesians 4:29-32)

**3:9-12 A “Doer” of God’s Word Will Want to Be a Tongue-Tamer**

3:9  Is the apostle denying the fall into sin? (Genesis 5:3 & Colossians 3:10)

3:10-12  How will outsiders view us if this is true of us?

**8th Commandment**

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

What is God protecting with this commandment?

Why is this a greater treasure than a godly spouse, children and all worldly possessions?