

Psalm 19:7-14

- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;
- 8 the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
- 9 the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring forever
the rules of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
- 13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Today: May 21, 2023

Worship in Reading and Song:

Doxology
Reading: *A Colloquy on Rejoicing*
Speak O Lord

Teaching of the Word:

James 3 - Taming the Tongue

Worship through Giving and Song

Collection of Tithes and Offerings
Let the Nations be Glad
Before the Throne of God Above
Numbers 6:24

Upcoming Sermon Topic and Events

May 21 - Faith Works: James 4 (*Fellowship Dinner*)
May 28 - Faith Works: James 5

The Workshop

Men's Bible and Character Study. This is an ongoing study that meets on the first Sunday morning of every month at 7:30 am. Meeting location is at Robb Besosa's wood shop: 460 Salt Creek Rd.

Next Workshop meeting: June 4

Please check out vineandbranch.family for a more detailed calendar and to listen to past sermons.

Live Streaming:

If you cannot attend in person, you can join us by clicking the button on our home page at **vineandbranch.family**

Mailing list:

If you attend regularly and want to be included on the mailing list, provide your email to Ian Smith. Emails go out 2-3 times per month and include prayer requests and announcements.

James 3

Faith works. Faith results in action. Faith bears fruit. Faith controls speech.

ALL SPEECH FLOWS FROM THE HEART - Jesus lays out this principle years earlier (Mat 12:34)

James applies this truth to our action by talking about works; He applies it to thoughts, when talking about impartiality, and now he moves on to what comes out of our mouths – speech.

Truth Matters: “Not many should teach” (v1)

Teaching is the ultimate form of speaking and causes much harm or good.

“The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, us the only rule to direct us on how we may glorify and enjoy Him.” -WSC

Eternal souls are on the line, and Poorly handling the word leads to shame (2 Tim 2:15)

Teaching the word can only be done with faith.

Everyone Stumbles: (except Jesus).

To “stumble” in speech in this context is to say something that hinders or damages God’s truth or people’s spiritual progress.

Small, but Powerful

The tongue is difficult to control **in the extreme**. It's a small part of the body, but has great and lasting effects on the whole. James is the mater of metaphor, using effective word pictures: *horses and ships*.

A tongue left uncontrolled will kill the man; a tongue without good speech is a sign of a dead faith.

A Major Source of Destruction

James is running around yelling “fire, fire!” with use of very dramatic imagery. Speech can torch your life! From fire to fire goes the lifespan of sinful words spoken outside the control of a living faith.

Prov 1:19: When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

Examples from nature

A freshwater spring and fruit-bearing plants. “these things ought not to be so.” (v10)

Our words are a barometer of our spiritual condition.

Two Kinds of Wisdom (James’ Application)

The book of James is a *Faith Troubleshooting Manual*. It contains a series of examination points, complete with examples and glossy, dramatic visuals. He tells us to pay attention! Show meek and humble wisdom through good conduct (works) including the work of controlling your tongue (boasting or being false to the truth.) This is divine wisdom.

- Faithless or worldly “wisdom” is
Earthly (from below), Unspiritual (of the senses), Demonic (of the devil), Jealous, Selfish Disorderly, Vile
- Divine Wisdom is
Pure (Holy), Peaceable, Gentle, Open to reason, Merciful, Results in good fruits, Impartial & sincere

In Faith, Sow Peace

v18 ... a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Pray and keep God’s word close.

Pay attention to and judge your faith and speech by the Faith Troubleshooting Manual. We want our speech to align with the attributes of Divine Wisdom