

## JAMES 3

1. If God does not show favoritism, should we honor one Christian over another?

-No.

2. What does James 2:4 say if we do not show the same honor to all people?

-That we have become a judge with evil thoughts.

3. Can you be rich and believe in God?

-Yes, but it is difficult.

4. Some people think that they are good people because they have kept most of the laws of God. Is this true?

-No.

5. Some people think that if they obey most of the laws of God, then God must accept them. Is this true?

-No.

6. When people compare themselves to other people, will they see their sin?

-No.

7. Why not?

-Because we are all sinners, and we are all the same.

8. When do people really see their sin?

-When they compare themselves with God.

## Let's read James 3:1-2

1-Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

2-We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

-Why will God judge teachers more strictly than others?

-Because teachers must make sure that they teach the Word of God correctly.

-God through Paul encourages all of us to “correctly handle the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15).

-Is any Christian perfect?

-No.

-In James 3:2, the Lord through James is teaching us that no one is perfect.

-Only God is perfect.

## Let's read James 3:3-5a

3-When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.

4-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 wherever the pilot wants to go.

5-Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.

-A small bit is important because it can control a strong horse.

-Yet, a horse out of control is very dangerous.

-A small rudder is important because it can control a large boat.

-Yet, a boat out of control can kill people.

-Likewise, the tongue is small, but it can be dangerous and can get out of control.

-Many Christian tongues have caused much damage by saying only a few words.

Let's read James 3:5b-8

5-Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

6-The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

7-All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by

mankind,

8-but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

-There are many sins from many people because of the tongue.

-What is an easy way to sin?

-To use our tongue for sin instead of for God.

-Who alone is able to tame the tongue?

-Only God.

Let's read James 3:9-12

9-With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.

10-Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

11-Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

12-My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

-To understand this teaching, we must know to whom these verses are speaking.

-We know all of the New Testament after Acts including

the book of James is written to Christians.

-This is why, in verse 12, James writes “my brothers and sisters.”

-Therefore, we can say that these verses are teaching us about the Christian tongue and not the tongue of the non-Christian.

-The tongue speaks what is on the inside.

-If we have evil thoughts on the inside, the tongue can speak them.

-If we have good thoughts on the inside, the tongue can speak them.

-As Christians, God has given us a new heart, and we are new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

-Therefore, why does the tongue of a Christian speak evil from time to time?

-Does the evil on the tongue of the Christian come from the new heart?

-No.

-Where does the evil on the tongue of a Christian come from?

-From the flesh or the old habits from our life before we were saved by Christ.

-In Romans 7, Paul said this:

19-“For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

20-Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.”

-The sin living in us is not in our new heart, but rather from our flesh or our old ways before we were saved.

-If we have evil thoughts on the inside, what should we do?

-Ask the Lord Jesus to take away the evil thoughts before they arrive at the tongue.

-Because Christ has given us a new heart, we should not curse others nor cause any other hurt.

-The Christian is not like the rest of the world.

-The Christian is Christ living in us.

Let’s read James 3:13-16

13-Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

14-But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

15-Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

16-For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

-These verses teach us about the importance of not having envy and selfish ambition in our lives.

-When we have envy, we want something that God has given to someone else.

-This can cause us to neglect the gifts that God has given us for something that God has not given us.

-Instead of having envy, we should rather use and develop the gifts that God has already given us.

-God has given each one of us special gifts that He has designed for us.

-To go against God’s design will only hurt us.

-As for selfish ambition, many Christians have this problem.

-We work hard for gaining things for ourselves instead of working to help others.

-As Christians, God has already given us in the heavenly realms every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ep 1:3).

-Compared to having been given every spiritual gift in Christ, there is no greater gift on earth or heaven.

-Therefore, our ambitions should not be selfish, but rather for God and others.

Let’s read James 3:17-18

17-But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

18-Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

-The wisdom from heaven is from God and is far better than the wisdom of people.

-How do Christians obtain the wisdom from heaven?

-We must ask God.

-James 1:5 says this: “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

-If we are peacemakers, what will we reap?

-A harvest of righteousness.