



Sunday, April 25, 2010: Epistle of James - "Voyage to Victory"

Scripture: James 3:1-12

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. Though we all struggle to use our tongues for good and for the glory of God, this is to be an encouraging and motivating sermon.
2. We're to be a thinking church, loving God with all our minds. However our actions and our speech are just as important.
3. Our true character is displayed by our tongues when we're under stress or upset. That's when pure speech is hardest to maintain.
4. Teachers in particular bear a huge responsibility for their words which leave an indelible mark on their students.
5. If you can control your tongue, you can control your whole body.
6. Speech is a primary indicator of godly character.
7. Jesus said that your speech reveals the condition of your heart. (Matthew 12:33-37)
8. Though the tongue is small, it guides the course of one's life.
9. The goal of the church is to teach faithfully the whole counsel of God, not ignoring any of God's commands. (Matthew 5:17-20)
10. Those who relax what God has said will be least in the kingdom.
11. The grace of God in salvation is meaningless apart from His law.
12. James says the tongue is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
13. Evil speech is what makes us impure in the sight of God, not omissions in external observances. Matthew 15:17-20
14. We long for our hearts to be governed by the Spirit of God.
15. Leviticus 19:16 forbids gossip, a sin which is punished directly by God.
16. James confirms that we'll be held accountable for every idle word.
17. Don't let your petty preferences lead to verbal criticisms which will rob others of their joy.
18. God always speaks plainly, truthfully, and faithfully; so must we.

19. We must be faithful to our spoken obligations. A man's word is his bond.
20. As we endeavour to model pure speech for ourselves and our children, we must beware that what goes in comes out.
21. Nothing is more lovely than a Christian whose conversation is filled with grace and truth.

Application Questions:

1. What does my speech reveal about my character?
2. What do my words say about my heart's condition before God?
3. How can we grow by receiving the correction and rebuke of friends and family with respect to our speech habits?
4. How can tactfulness help me to encourage others even when I must confront them with a difficult or painful truth?
5. In what direction is your tongue guiding the course of your life?
6. Do I take time to filter my words by biblical standards, or do I express hasty, rash and ungodly speech?
7. Do I need to change in light of Leviticus 19:16?
8. Am I paying attention to the purity and truthfulness of my teachers and those who instruct my children?
9. Do I put encouraging words in the minds of others, or do I curse and criticize?
10. Do I sometimes misuse the name of the Lord in my speech?
11. Do I sometimes bear false testimony against my neighbour?
12. Do I long for my tongue to be governed by the Spirit of God?