# *Third Street Church*

# *Midweek Prayer and Bible Study*

# *Wednesday, May 20, 2020- 6pm*

***Introductions/ Welcome/ Opening Prayer: Pastor Reid***

*Key Verses:* **James 3:15**: Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.***James 3:17****:*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.

***The Word: James 3:1-18* New International Version (NIV)**

### Taming the Tongue

**3**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.

**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. 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.**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.

### Two Kinds of Wisdom

**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.**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

***Reflection:***

James establishes the general principle that small things can cause great results. Then more specifically applies this to the power of the tongue to destroy. Teachers were important in the early church and those who were ambitious sought teacher status for the wrong reasons. However with greater responsibility come greater expectations by God. Teachers will be judged with greater strictness since they are accountable for more. ***One commentator writes: “If a person can perfectly control their tongue, then they would be able to control every other part of the body as well. What a glorious thought! I fear that some would-be teachers might actually believe that they have mastered their tomgue because they are able to master others with their tongue”.*** A person’s words reflects their character.

James says seek wisdom from above which produces character qualities beginning with purity and concluding with peace. (Gal.5:22-23).Peace is one of the key attributes of the pure believer. (Matt.5:9,Heb.12:11).

***Guiding Questions for Bible Study Discussion***

Please feel free to join in during the study we all learn and are studying God’s Word together. This conference call study is not to judge but to support and fellowship as people of faith.

**James 3:1-12**

1. In the first two verses James talks about the possibility of being condemned. Who were the teachers in the early church?
2. Why do you think James would say teachers will be held to a higher standard?
3. In vs.3-6 James gives three examples to show how powerful the tongue really is. What does each of these three small things do to control larger things?

Bits in the mouths of horses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in v.1:26 what other word is used about the tongue? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ships Rudder\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Spark that starts a forest fire\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. v.5 ..*the tongue is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_part of the body but it makes great boast”.* **Think** **about this**: The tongue is one of the smaller organs of the body has a similar control over everything a person is and does.
2. v. 7 There are many ways the tongue can be like a wild animal. Some struggle with cursing or profanity. Others struggle with gossip. Still others have an issue with boasting about themselves. James writes “*No human can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the tongue. It is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_full of deadly poison*”.
3. v.9 - James mentions hypocrisy of our words. *“From the same mouth comes sweet praises to God and bitter curses and hostility toward others*”. **Deeper thought**: What ways does this passage relate to James 1:8? *double* *mindedness*

**James 3:13-18**

1. James continues his talk about living wise lives (v.1:5) by talking about the kind of life wise people live. The type of life we live shows either of two types of wisdom. Wisdom that comes from\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and there is wisdom that comes from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ask yourself what type of wisdom you have most of the time. Why do you think that it is sometimes easy for Christians to look, talk, and act just like the rest of the world? Has this time of COVID-19 had impact on wise living?
3. Look at the list in 3:17 write next to each characteristic Godly wisdom how you see it in your life today: for example: **Purity:** keeping clear, positive thoughts

**Write your own for:**

**Peace loving\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Considerate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Submissive\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Merciful\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Sincere\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**For More Though, Meditation and Prayer**: Make effort to let your words be a blessing to others. Use more sweet words than bitter words. Prayer from the song *Change Me* by Tamela Mann “ *Change me oh God make me more like you, change me oh God wash me through and through, create in me a clean heart, so that I may worship you.”*

**What Inspires you these days?**

What's giving you inspiration and hope these days? A song, hymn, scripture, special reading? How has it helped inspire you? If you feel led, please share with the group

﻿**Faith in Action:** Give, share, pray, reach out. As Christians we are *the hands and feet of Christ in the world*. Let you light so shine so that others can see Christ in you! We are the Church

 **Wrap up thoughts from the group**

**Evening Prayer- Pastor Reid. Let us lift up people/situations in God’s world for prayer:** *Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father’s throne. Make all my wants and wishes known….*

 **Closing Music: “*Thank you Lord for all You’ve Done for Me*” by Walter Hawkins**

*Tragedies are common place. All kinds of diseases, people are slipping away. Economies down, people can't get enough pay. as for me all I can say is, Thank you Lord for all you've done for me!*

*I wanna to say thank your for love(thank you) Thank you for your power(thank you)
Thank you for protection(thank you) Every hour(thank you Jesus)*

**Words of Sending: Reading Responsively:**

**L: May the peace and protection of Christ our Savior be with you and your loved ones now and forever**.

 P: Amen!

**All: May God Bless everyone!**

Thank you for joining our Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer this week!

With the Love of Christ,

Pastor Reid