

7. Speaking like Jesus

James 3:1-12

- The tongue is one of the clearest indicators of genuine Christian faith 1:26
- Real Christianity is not simply about forgiveness, but about change

1. **The Challenge of a Controlled Tongue**

- A stern warning to those who have to talk a lot – preachers v1
- You are what you say – your tongue reveals your heart. (Matt 12:34)
- 3 questions to test our tongues
 - a) Where is your tongue out of control? v3-5a**
 - Imagery of bit and rudder – something small sets the course
 - Control your tongue or it will control you
 - Know where your tongue runs fast and free
 - Make those areas matters for urgent prayer
 - b) Where is your tongue destructive? v5b-8**
 - As a spark – does your tongue start things which get out of control? Gossip, flattery, opinion
 - A poison – like a snake ready to strike. Do you rehearse arguments and put-downs in your head?
 - We can destroy not only others but ourselves
 - c) Where is your tongue inconsistent? v9-12**
 - Is our speech the same around others as it is at church? At home?
 - Is our speech consistent with our faith? Anger, doubt, impatience?
 - Are the things you think/watch/hear consistent? Garbage in-garbage out

2. **The Glory of a Controlled Tongue**

- v2 – What ‘perfect man, never at fault in what he says’ could James be thinking of?
- Jesus – a man of perfect self controlled speech (John 7:46, 1 Peter 22,23)
- He speaks gently to the hurt and the lost – He speaks well to you
- He also speaks well for you – the wonder of the gospel is that Christ’s perfect record covers ours

3. **The Hope of a Controlled Tongue**

- Is there hope? v8 – No man can tame the tongue
- Yet James expects Christians to be different - sweet, refreshing, nourishing speech is possible.
- The Christian has outside help has outside help
- The Christian is being made more and more Christ-like, and that includes our speech

“How can Christ be in the heart when the Devil has taken possession of the tongue?”
- Thomas Watson

Notices

Sunday	Evening service at Letterkenny	8pm
Tues	Bible Study at Stewart's Study 2 in Westminster Confession of Faith - pick up a sheet	8pm
Fri 25th - Sun 27th - Fellowship weekend - Speaker Rev David McCullough		
Friday	7.00pm @ Robert & Judith's Welcome - Talk 1 - Supper and Games	
Saturday	2.30pm @ Day Centre - Talk 2 Coffee and discussion 6.00pm @ The Money Tree - Tea & Games	
Sabbath	10.15am Morning worship - Talk 3 Lunch	
Sun 27	Bready Praise Service “Running the Race - how God's song-book keeps us on track.”	7pm

Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, and to find answers to your questions the Bible and Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

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