

BRIDLING THE BEAST IN YOUR BODY

James 3:1–12

As we learned the last time we were together and spent our time in 2:14–26, James set forth his main message in those verses. And what is it? **Genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ produces good works, which provide the evidence that we are Christians.** In the section we're looking at today, he "pulls off the gloves" as he deals with the one area that consistently gives us the most trouble: ***the tongue!*** In these 12 verses, James pulls no punches as he addresses the tongue. No other section of the Bible hits with greater impact or speaks with greater authority on the tongue than these verses. Because this is true, let's ask God to give us ears to hear, hearts that accept, and, ultimately, wills that are ready to obey as we examine this powerful, convicting section of the Scriptures.

I. Introducing the Subject (vv. 1–2)

- A command
- The reason
- Some clarification

II. Analyzing the Tongue (vv. 3–12)

- It is small but powerful
- It is necessary but dangerous
- It is helpful but inconsistent

III. Applying the Message