

For Further Study March 19-25



THE THIRD COMMANDMENT Exodus 20:7

"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name."

Read James 3:1-12:

The tongue is a very powerful part of the body. Why does James point this out so clearly to us?

James uses several illustrations to help us understand the power of the tongue. Look at each of these examples, what does each teach us about the power of the tongue?

1. Bits and horses
2. Ships and rudders
3. Sparks and fires
4. Fresh and salt water
5. Plants and fruits

What do each of the following scripture passages teach us about how we should speak?

1. Ephesians 5:4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.
2. Jeremiah 15:16 When your words came, I ate them they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.
3. Ephesian 4:29 - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Consider your words.

Think back to a time when you swore, cursed, or used your tongue in a way that brought dishonor to God's name. Did you catch yourself, or did someone else point out your error?

What practices have helped you to bring your tongue under control?

How might you enter this week with a greater urgency for taming your tongue?