

TITLE: James (Lesson 18)

TEXT: James 3:9-12

INTRO: "Now the tongue reveals genuine faith, because it is with the mouth that confession is made of that which is in the heart."
J. Vernon McGee

I. (vs. 9) Blessings and Cursings.

A. What does God expect our blessings to look like?

NOTE: Num. 6:22-27

1. (vs. 24) Bless and keep (favor and protect) his people.
2. (vs. 25a) Make his face shine on them (be pleased or happy).
3. (vs. 25b) Be gracious (merciful and compassionate) to them.
4. (vs. 26a) Turn his face toward them (give them his approval).
5. (vs. 26b) Give them peace or total well-being.
6. (vs. 27) Invoke God's name or reputation and He will bless.

NOTE: Prov. 18:4 Our words like water should be life-giving, refreshing, cleansing, encouraging and fruitful.

B. What does cursing look like?

1. To curse someone is an act of personal abuse.

NOTE: Perhaps during an act of rage, loss of temper, or heated controversy.

2. It means to invoke evil or calamity upon someone.
3. It may be an expression of revenge or judgment.

NOTE: Luke 6:28 To bless someone is to invoke blessings upon them.

C. God condemns cursing others who are made in His likeness.

NOTE: Prov. 10:11-14 "Therefore, if we curse men, we indirectly curse God." *SJK*

II. (vs. 10) Mixed Messages.

A. We have a problem!

1. First this is happening amongst believers!

NOTE: It happened in Peter's life and it happens in ours. Matt. 26:35; 69-75

2. Secondly it's wrong and evil.

NOTE: It reveals a heart problem. Matt. 12:34; 15:11; Prov. 4:23

III. (vs. 11-12) James illustrates what he is teaching.

A. Christians need to be consistent with their new nature.

NOTE: The old nature can't do anything right (Rom. 7:18) and the new nature doesn't practice sin (I John 3:1-10).

B. Our conduct and conversation comes from Christ.

NOTE: John 4:10-15; 7:37-39

C. The tongue and the heart are to be in agreement.

NOTE: Rom. 10:9

CONCLUSION: Warren Wiersbe shares "Twelve Words That Can Transform Your Life." Here they are: "**Please**", "**Thank you**", "**I'm sorry**", "**I love you**" and "**I'm praying for you**".