

James 3:6~ Well, the tongue is a fire. The tongue is constituted a world of unrighteousness among our members, for it spots up all the body, and sets the wheel of natural life aflame, and it is set aflame by Gehenna.¹

Footnote: See Appendix 4C

1· James now shows that the tongue is like that fire or match among all of our other body members. It is easily the most unrighteous of all our body members, for it spots up all the body and sets the wheel of natural life aflame, even leading to our eternal destruction in Gehenna.

[Question] What is the tongue likened to among the body's many members?

[Question] Why can we say, that it is easily the most unrighteous of all the body members, for what can it do to us?

2· Since it is a way for our feelings and desires to get release from our bodies, and since it shows what we are inside in heart and mind, it has great power to harm and destroy even all the body. Many an argument has been started with a careless vocalization by the tongue, resulting in the death of its owner and often of others.

[Question] What does the tongue facilitate from within?

[Question] What has resulted many times from the loose use of the tongue?

3· A good-for-nothing man is digging up what is bad, and upon his lips there is, as it were, a scorching fire. (Proverbs 16:27)

[Question] What does a good-for-nothing man do with his tongue?

4· I tell you that every unprofitable saying that men speak, they will render an account concerning it on Judgment Day. (Matthew 12:36)

[Question] What will men be called to account for on judgment day?

5· I said; I will guard my ways to keep from sinning with my tongue. I will set a muzzle as a guard to my own mouth, as long as anyone wicked is in front of me. (Psalms 39:1)

[Question] How did the Psalmist take special care when someone wicked was before him?

- 6· **Not what enters into his mouth defiles a man, but it is what proceeds out of his mouth that defiles a man. (Matthew 15:11)**

[Question] What is it in life, that truly defiles a man?

- 7· **However, the things proceeding out of the mouth come out of the heart, and those things defile a man. (Matthew 15:18)**

[Question] Where do the things coming out of the mouth come from?

- 8· **And yet then, I will confess to them; I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness. (Matthew 7:23)**

[Question] Though many would confess Jesus Christ as Lord, how would he respond to them?

- 9· **You have loved all devouring words, O you deceitful tongue. (Psalms 52:4)**

[Question] What things does a deceitful tongue love?

- 10· **They have put their mouth in the very heavens, and their tongue itself walks about in the earth. (Psalms 73:9)**

[Question] How do the unrighteous try to raise themselves above everyone else?

- 11· **What will one give to you, and what will one add to you, O you tricky tongue? (Psalms 120:3)**

[Question] How did the Psalmist feel about the man with a tricky tongue?

- 12· **A good-for-nothing man, a man of hurtfulness, is walking with crookedness of speech. (Proverbs 6:12)**

[Question] How does the good-for-nothing man walk, and speak?

- 13· **Because of the blessing of the upright ones a town is exalted, but because of the mouth of the wicked ones it gets torn down. (Proverbs 11:11)**

[Question] Why is a town exalted, and why does an entire town get torn down?

- 14· Death and **life** are in the power of the **tongue**, and he that is loving it will eat its fruitage. (**Proverbs 18:21**)

[Question] What things are in the power of the tongue?

- 15· As a war club and a sword and a sharpened arrow is a man testifying against his fellowman as a false witness. (**Proverbs 25:18**)

[Question] What is a man testifying against his fellow man as a false witness, likened to?

- 16· Where there is no wood, the **fire** goes out, and where there is no slanderer, contention grows still. (**Proverbs 26:20**)

[Question] What should we do to stop an argument from getting out of hand?

[Question] What does slander stir up?

- 17· Men of boastful talk inflame a town, but those who are wise turn back anger. (**Proverbs 29:8**)

[Question] What do men who speak boastfully do?

[Question] What is it to turn back anger?

- 18· The good man out of his good treasure sends out good things, whereas the wicked man out of his wicked treasure sends out wicked things. (**Matthew 12:35**)

[Question] How are the wicked man and the righteous man similar, in where they draw up things from?

- 19· And death and Hades were hurled into the Lake of **Fire**. This means the second death, the Lake of **Fire**. (**Revelation 20:14**)

[Question] What is hurled into the Lake of Fire, and what does the Lake of Fire mean?

- 20· But as for the cowards and those without faith, and those who are disgusting in their filth, and murderers and fornicators, and those practicing spiritism, and idolaters and all the liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns

with **fire** and sulphur. This means the second death.
(Revelation 21:8)

[Question] What kinds of persons will end up in the Lake of Fire, eternal destruction?