The Tongue

- Problem of Teachers
- In Religion – to speak FOR God
- 1 Peter 4:11
  - – speak as the oracles of God

Responsibility is GREAT

- God NOT take lightly –
  - Prov. 30:5-6 – ‘reprove thee’
  - Gal. 1:8-9 – ‘accursed’
- Souls are at stake …
- Words are POWERFUL…

Power of Words

- Power to convert Rom. 1:16
- Power to Heal Prov. 15:23
- Power to destroy Prov. 15:4

Power of Words

- Power to build

OR destroy relationships

communication is the ‘life blood’ of relationship

Power of Words

James' illustrations –

- Bit in horses mouth
- Rudder on Ship
- Fire

Danger of Such Power

- Greatest use potential..
- Greatest destruction if misused !

Gift from God

- Tongue (language, communication)
  - is the gift of God …
- A profound ability for good ..

WHEN used as God would have it

Good Use of Tongue

- Praise God -- James 3:9
- Sing – Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16
- Confess faith – Rom. 10:9-10
- Pray - 1 Thess. 5:18
- **B**uild up – Eph. 4:29
- Comfort – 1 Thess. 4:18

Evil use Of Tongue

- False teaching – James 3:1
- Evil Speaking – James 3:9
  – gossip, backbiting, cursing,
- False Oaths – James 5:12
- Lying – Col. 3:9
- Murmuring – 1 Cor. 10:10

Tongue -- Words

- "Tongue" - NOT WORK ALONE
- ***Manifests what is in the heart***
  - – can lie – but the lie began in the heart
  - – can be hypocritical – but is of the heart

Matt. 15:11-18

- What comes OUT of the mouth –

  – defiles the man – vs. 11
- Things out of the mouth –

  – come from the HEART -- 18

Matt. 12:34

- ‘being evil’ –

  – not speak good

  For..

  Out of the abundance of the heart

  The Mouth speaks…

The Needed Change

- Controlling the Tongue →
- “Bite” your tongue
  - – As NEEDED –
  - – As ABLE

The Real Change Needed…

- THE HEART

THIS will control what comes OUT