

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW: **Swift to hear (1:21–2:26)**
 Slow to speak (3:1-18)
 Slow to wrath (4:1–5:6)

3:1 We should not rush to teach, because teachers face a stricter judgment at *Bēma*

Informality of *church* after believers were scattered

James does not speak about giftedness (e.g., whether one has a teaching gift)

Why is there a stricter judgment for teachers at the *Bēma*?

3:2 All believers (even James) stumble in various ways, so the believer who can avoid stumbling in words, is mature enough to avoid stumbling in other areas of life

3:3 Similarly, one who controls a horse's mouth through a bridle and bit also controls the entire horse

3:4 Similarly, though the rudder is far smaller than sails, it enables the pilot to direct a ship

3:5a Similarly, the little tongue is a great boaster

3:5b-6a The kindles (as it were) huge forest fires, the (embodiment) of evil

3:6b The tongue defiles a whole body & ignites all that our lives touch, but is itself ignited by Gehenna

3:6a In our course of life the tongue can inflame anything

3:7-8 Man really has sovereignty over all beasts, the evil & poisonous tongue excepted

What do we say in light of verse 8 about James' view of the Christian life?

3:9 The tongue's unruliness is clear, because it blesses the Creator & curses those created in His image

3:10-12 A mouth that both blesses & curses is inappropriate; as inappropriate as a fig tree yielding olives; a grapevine yielding figs; or a spring yielding both salt H₂O & fresh

CONCLUSION