



## ***Shoe Leather Christianity***

### **A Study on the Book of James**

Lesson 3A | May 28, 2015 | James 3:1 – 12

#### **Lesson Overview**

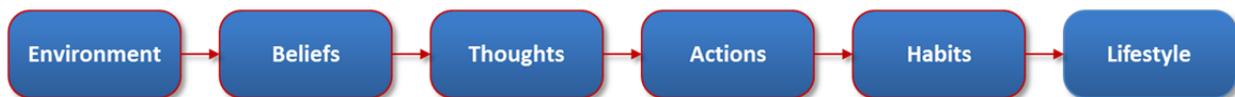
This week's passage is one of those "easier to say, harder to do" sections – *taming the tongue!* It is interesting that James opens up this passage warning teachers. Maybe we should say "people of influence" as opposed to limiting our discussion to teachers alone. It is easy for us to be dismissive of a passage we do not believe applies to us. Being a person of responsibility requires great commitment that extends beyond who we and a reliance of God's work in our lives.

When it comes to the tongue, no human can tame it, but God can. It is so important that as men we learn to speak the truth in love, especially to our wives and children. It does not mean we should not speak the truth, but when we speak it cannot be done with selfish motives. Oftentimes our motive is the "litmus test" for what we say. **Words matter**. Words change lives; for better or for worse. We never know the impact the words of one person can have on the life of another. Consider that maxim in how you live your life and how you speak to others.

#### **Series Overview**

**Success comes from training, not trying.** As we study the book of James, we will find a cause and effect relationship with regards to the choices we make in life. There is always a pattern associated with success or failure. The key is to determine areas in our life where we are weak and seek the Lord's guidance in making lasting changes, not the temporary changes often associated with today's "boot strap" self-help approaches.

Throughout this series we are going to focus on the following flowchart that represents the "progressive" phases of our Christian life; each phase of the Christian life is associated with the previous phase. **Environment** leads to beliefs; **beliefs** lead to thoughts; **thoughts** lead to actions; **actions** lead to habits; and **habits** lead to **lifestyles**. A phrase to help us remember this progression is *Every Boy Thinks About Hunting Lions*. Try and commit this flowchart to memory as it will be useful throughout the series.



**Figure 1: Progressive Phases of the Christian Life**

1. In reading verse 1 think of all the ways teachers (and leaders) can impact for better or for worse those under their charge based on what they say.

For Better

For Worse

2. Discuss a time in your life when someone said something to you that had a significant impact on who you are today?

3. As Christians, why is our speech so important?

4. In the spaces below write the names of three (3) people in your life. Write down their name and to the side write words of affirmation to that person. When you have an opportunity, tell them.

Person #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Encouragement: \_\_\_\_\_

Person #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Encouragement: \_\_\_\_\_

Person #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Encouragement: \_\_\_\_\_