

THIS ONE'S RELIGION IS

USELESS

JAMES 1:26

THE TEXT IN CONTEXT

The Self-Deception (3x in James 1)

- Origin of temptation – (v. 16)
 - (vv. 6-8, 13-15) – divided between God's wisdom and own, convincing self that your way is from God.
- Hearing but not doing – (v. 22)
 - (vv. 19-20, 21-25) – heard God's word, not accepting, not doing, but going own way.
- Unbridled tongue – (v. 26)

THE TEXT IN CONTEXT

The Unbridled Tongue

- Contrast: religion (**James 1:26**), self-imposed religion (**Colossians 2:23**)
 - “self-imposed religion” – *ethelothrēskia* – self-made religion, do-it-yourself religion, idiosyncratic religion (BDAG)
- Use of tongue in context:
 - (**vv. 13-15**) – charge God with way not from Him.
 - (**v. 19**) – reply against God with wrath.
 - (**v. 26**) – unbridled tongue.

THE TEXT IN CONTEXT

The Unbridled Tongue

- Claim to appeal to God (v. 5).
- Reason self away from God's word. Convince self that your way is God's way (vv. 6-8, 13-15).
- Unbridled tongue – Not subjecting thoughts, words, actions to God's will (v. 26).

THE TONGUE AS THE MESSENGER OF THE HEART

The Significance of the Tongue

- Though small, it is very significant, boasts great things – **James 3:1-5a**
- What is not said:
 - The tongue is inherently evil.
 - The tongue cannot be bridled or controlled.

THE TONGUE AS THE MESSENGER OF THE HEART

The Heart as the Bridle of the Tongue

- The tongue is the messenger of the heart –
Matthew 12:33-37; 15:18-19

“But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”
(James 3:14-16)

THE TONGUE AS THE MESSENGER OF THE HEART

The Heart as the Bridle of the Tongue

- The tongue is the messenger of the heart –
Matthew 12:33-37; 15:18-19
- Control heart → control tongue → control body.
- Heart trained in God's word → speech reflecting
God's word → conduct befitting God's word –
Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:9-16; James 1:19-22

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Doubting Religion (1:5-8)

Emotional Religion (2:19-20)

Dualistic Religion (4:4-5)

Legislative Religion (4:11-12)

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