

### Study: BRIDLE YOUR TONGUE

We will begin by examining our lesson text in four parts.

- A. **"If** (1cc/true/ protasis) anyone (tis/ nsm) **THINKS** (dokeo/ p.a.ind.3ps) ~~himself~~ to be (eimi/ p.a.infin) religious (threskos),
- B. ~~and yet~~ does not (me) bridle (chalinagoeo/ p.a.ptc.nsm) his own (heautos) TONGUE,
- C. but (alla) deceives (apatao/ p.a.ptc.nsm) his own (heautos) HEART,
- D. (**then/ true/ apodosis**) this man's (houtos) **RELIGION** (threskeia) ~~is~~ worthless or vain/ mataios)." (Jas.1:26/ Acts 26:5/ Agrippa to Paul)

James is like many pastor-teachers who do a great job of explaining the fleshly problem but not the spiritual solution.

For example, in our lesson text James lays out the fleshly problem of sins of the tongue and leaves the believer without how to conquer it. James's suggestion is to bridle it (Jas.1:26).

This lesson will study four aspects of how to spiritually Bridle Your Tongue by the supernatural power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

1. We will begin by parsing James 1:26 into six points of Bridle Your Tongue.

1<sup>st</sup> – James used the term Religion (threskia) **twice**. He opened the verse and closed it with this term. He used it with **IF and Then**(1cc/ IF and true in protasis THEN true in apodosis). This shows two sides of the believer who THINKS he is religious, but his religious thinking is worthless.

2<sup>nd</sup> – If ANYONE (tis/ indefinite pronoun) THINKS (dokeo) is based on a false assumption that leads to false interpretation to a false expectation to a false application.

3<sup>rd</sup> – The doctrinal principle of truth is based on the 1cc in protasis (if) and apodosis (then).

4<sup>th</sup> – The religious person must learn to Bridle his tongue before speaking. Bridel is a compound word (chalinagoeo/ **chalinos**: head gear on horse and **ago**: to lead). If that doesn't work, you add a bit to mouth.

5<sup>th</sup> – The believer who doesn't Bridle his own Tongue deceives (apatao) his own Heart.

6<sup>th</sup> – This believer's religion is worthless (mataios/ vain, void of results/ Chasing the Wind).

2. The main verb of this Greek sentence is Thinks (dokeo/ p.a.ind.3ps). *“If anyone thinks himself to be (eimi/ ASQ of existence/ p.a.infin) religious.”*

**Two p.a.ptc** are used to explain the **doctrinal principle** of difference between false and true religious thinking regarding Bridle the Tongue.

- 1<sup>st</sup> - does not bridle his own tongue
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – deceives his own heart

Note that there is no verb in the *apodosis* - *“then this is true”* – **“THIS MAN’S RELIGION IS WORTHLESS** (vain or futile like Chasing the Wind).”

3. Every believer is responsible for putting the bridle of control on his tongue. *“I was taught as a child, “If you can’t say anything good, don’t say anything.”*

James says Bridle of tongue begins with control of thoughts of the heart (deceives his own heart). Peter had this problem in Matt.16:21-23. But he didn’t correct it; and it showed up again in Matt.26:69-75 (70-75/ read).

*“You let your mouth loose in evil, and **your tongue** frames deceit.” (Ps.50:19/ Eph.4:22-25)*

*“**Truthful lips** will be established forever, but a **lying tongue** is only for a moment. **Deceit is in the heart** of those who devise evil, but counselors of peace have joy.” (Proverbs 12:19-20)*

*“But I afraid that, as the serpent **deceived Eve** by his craftiness, **your minds will be led astray** from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.” (2 Cor.11:3; Rev.12:9/ satan)*

4. The two p.a.ptc establish neglect of use of two spiritual weapons in CWL (Christian way of Life/ Gal.5:16; 2 Cor.5:7).

1<sup>st</sup> - *“Does not bridle his own tongue”* is to neglect the ministry of walking by means of indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.5:16-17).

One of nine fruit of the Holy Spirit is **self-control (enkrateia/ temperance/ inner strength/ Gal.5:22-23; 2 Pet.1:5-9; Titus 1:7-9).**

2<sup>nd</sup> - *“Deceit in his own heart”* is neglect of faith cycle (2 Tim.3:16-17; 2 Cor.5:7).

*“**Let us behave properly** as in the day, **not in** carousing and drunkenness, **not in** sexual promiscuity and sensuality, **not in** strife and jealousy. **But put on** the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provisions for the flesh in regard to its lusts.**” (Rom.13:13-15/ James 1:14-15)*