James: Chapter Three
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Principles:

- 1. Receiving judgment from God is bad enough but taking on a more severe execution of judgment occurs when God doubles down on those who challenge His prerogatives related to spiritual gifts and most especially those who fraudulently communicate of His Word.
- 2. This has to do with the divine system of authority. The pastor-teacher has been confirmed by God to have the gift. The pastor's duty is to prepare himself to faithfully communicate divine truth to his parishioners with the authority granted to him.
- 3. No one is perfect. Occasionally, the pastor will get something wrong, misspeak, or allow human viewpoint to cloud the message. The real test of the pastor is the validity of his message over the long haul.
- 4. If these deviations are rare, then such instances should not warrant criticism of his overall message to fellow members of the church.
- 5. If a man concludes he has a communication gift, his duty is to prepare himself for the office by pursuing the proper academic education.
- 6. This can be accomplished by studying under the ministry of his local pastor, or he can enroll in a seminary.
- 7. However, that man is in danger if he propagandizes members of the congregation against the pastor, removes himself from the auditorium while continuing to attend the church's programs.
- 8. It is in these peripheral areas that he may spread his opposition to the pastor's teachings: Sunday School classes where he volunteers to teach and in doing so communicates false doctrine.
- 9. When questioned, he responds with reasons why the pastor is wrong, gives his own theological opinions, and then asserts them as proof of the pastor's error.
- 10. In twentieth-century America there was an electronic contrivance that communicated a person's opposition to a pastor and his theology, but to a limited audience of one or two with landline telephones.
- 11. With twenty-first-century technology outreach can be easily expanded by joining up with Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest, and numerous other sites that enable a person to bloviate his opinions to thousands of fellow bloggers.
- 12. At first, this venom was restricted to e-mails and texts; but not anymore. Now various Web sites provide numerous options for the spreading of propaganda.

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- 13. A lie can be told to one person with comparatively little damage compared to the enumerable eyes and ears that are reached by the resources just mentioned.
- 14. Evil is afoot as truth is taking a holiday while the Luciferian lie gains momentum among these globally accessible devices for spreading the lie.
- 15. False teachers can easily delegitimize the pastor by using these devices to spread the lie while calling it the truth. Those who have not inculcated the truth can be deceived by the lie.
- When this tactic is done enough, hearers in churches' auditoria dwindle, the Word's rebuking power is suppressed by the advancement of the lie. These sources gradually weaken the stability of the client nation from the impact caused by the loss of thought.
- 17. Add to this the complete failure of the federal school system to teach the necessary core subjects for an informed electorate. The graduates, uninformed about the core principles required for a republic to maintain and protect personal freedoms, become pawns to be manipulated by mass media.
- 18. Journalism is dead. Its acolytes have sold their souls for a mess of cosmic pottage and become mass communicators of the lie. The United States in under assault, not from Russia, China, or Iran, but from its own deranged citizens who are the visible marionettes doing the bidding for the manipulative puppet masters behind the curtain.
- 19. Our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent Amendments have provided a firewall of protection from malcontents who would alter or remove the freedoms we enjoy within a client nation.
- 20. The radicalized leftwing candidates for the presidency are fomenting boldface rebellion against our country's foundational documents and charging anyone who disagrees in the most strident of terms.
- 21. The method of communicating their hatred for America and those who oppose them is by the use of their tongues.
- 22. The system of maintaining order in a free society includes teaching of civics in the schools. The laws of divine establishment used to play a part in that curriculum, but not anymore except in private schools.
- 23. James 3:1 begins with the imperative mood, "Fellow members of the royal family of God, stop the process of many of you by assuming the office of pastor-teacher."

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- 24. This command may be fulfilled by the following phrase introduced by the perfect active participle of *oída* which refers to knowing something.
- 25. James has established that by assuming the gift of pastor-teacher results in double punishment. It is one thing to be arrogant and mislead others, but when presenting oneself as a person with a communication gift, the discipline is multiplied.
- 26. Here is the expanded translation of the chapter's first verse:

James 3:1 Fellow members of the royal family of God, stop the process of many of you by assuming the office of pastor-teacher, knowing that we shall take to ourselves a more severe execution of judgment. (EXT)

Principle: These pseudo pastors-teachers are using their tongues to spread discord in the congregation by identifying themselves with the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher. This is a sin resulting in double punishment.

- 1. It is possible for a member of a congregation to assume the gift of pastor-teacher without asserting he has the spiritual gift. This occurs when he chooses to offer backhanded complements to the pastor.
- 2. This is accomplished by first aggrandizing the pastor on what a special guy he is, how he has such a glowing personality, is kind to the children, and then followed by a procession of blah, blah, blahs.
- 3. Then he gets to the real reason he has gained the floor by use of the conjunction, "but," which is followed by a rebuttal of what the pastor has taught. This is amplified by a dissertation of what the passage really means.
- 4. At that point he has become critical of the pastor's message, done so verbally in the presence of others, and has reaped upon himself double discipline.
- 5. Some will be influenced by what he has said, others silently walk away, while some believe his points and pass them on to others.
- 6. This is one of several ways false doctrine is circulated in a congregation and in every case the ill effects were propagated by use of the tongue.

(End JAS3-14. See JAS3-15 for continuation of study at p. 141.)

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- 7. This circumstance is further corrupted by inversion of the biblical system of authority regarding spiritual gifts. There are two communication gifts among the permanent, functional gifts for the Church Age: evangelist and pastorteacher.
- 8. Even in times when there are a dwindling number of believers, they always outnumber those with communication gifts. The pastor-teacher is capable of teaching those who attend from the gathering of three or three thousand or more.
- 9. It is usually the case that among his parishioners there are a few who have the gift of evangelist or pastor-teacher. Their responsibility is to grow in grace and at a point in their advance follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit to recognize the gift and then decide what to do with it.
- 10. You can stay put and grow under the pastor or decide to attend a qualified seminary. Not among the choices available is the decision to criticize the pastor, correct his teachings, or organize a group of dissidents.
- 11. In this way, a member of the congregation uses his tongue to recruit a cadre of followers and sometimes seizes power to publicly challenge the pastor's doctrine. This can occur from a person with authority such as an elder or a deacon.
- 12. The two offices are basically the same. The word "elder" in the Greek is πρεσβύτερος (*presbúteros*) and is basically the same as a deacon, διάκονος (*diákonos*). The various denominations of Protestant Christianity use one or the other and sometimes erroneously.
- 13. The underlying message of verse 1 is the warning of not assuming authority that you do not possess. It is also often true that some who are in positions of authority are respectful to submit to others whose authority supersedes theirs. Good examples are often found in the military.
- 14. This example is found in Scripture. A Roman centurion approached Jesus, asking for His assistance in Matthew 8. The rank, ἐκατοντάρχης (*ekatontárchēs*), was a commander of a hundred men in a Roman legion noted in the two excerpts cited below.
- 15. The biblical meeting between the centurion and the Lord is recorded in Matthew 8:5–13. A centurion approaches Jesus asking for His help regarding one of his servants.
- 16. Background on the rank of centurion and details on the exchange between him and the Lord follow: