

Verse									
1	Μὴ πολλοὶ διδάσκαλοι γίνεσθε, ἀδελφοί μου, εἰδότες ὅτι μείζον κρίμα λημψόμεθα.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	γίνεσθε	Pre	Mid	Impv	2	P		Γινομαι	Comd
	εἰδότες	Per	Act	Ptcp	M	P	N	Οἶδα	Adv Ptcp
	λημψόμεθα	Fut	Mid	Ind	1	P		λαμβάνω	MV
	<p>Translation:</p> <p>Not many (of you) should become teachers, my brothers, since you know that we will receive greater judgment.</p> <p>Notes</p> <p>A sobering application for those of us training for ministry or already in ministry.</p>								
2	πολλὰ γὰρ πταίμεν ἅπαντες. εἴ τις ἐν λόγῳ οὐ πταίει, οὗτος τέλειος ἀνὴρ δυνατὸς χαλιναγωγῆσαι καὶ ὅλον τὸ σῶμα.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	πταίμεν	Pre	Act	Ind	1	P		πταιω	MV
	πταίει	Pre	Act	Ind	3	S		πταιω	MV
	χαλιναγωγῆσαι	Aor	Act	Inf				χαλιναγωγεω	Comp Inf
	<p>Translation:</p> <p>For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in word, this is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.</p> <p>Notes</p> <p>The subsequent analogies and metaphors will foreground the importance of the tongue despite its seeming smallness in relation to the rest of the body.</p>								
3	εἰ δὲ τῶν ἵππων τοὺς χαλινούς εἰς τὰ στόματα βάλλομεν εἰς τὸ πείθεσθαι αὐτοὺς ἡμῖν, καὶ ὅλον τὸ σῶμα αὐτῶν μετάγομεν.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	βάλλομεν	Pre	Act	Ind	1	P		βαλλω	MV
	πείθεσθαι	Pre	Mid	Inf				πειθω	Purp Inf
	μετάγομεν	Pre	Act	Ind	1	P		μεταγω	MV

	<p>Translation:</p> <p>But if we put bits into the mouths of the horses in order that they may obey us, we also guide their whole body (bodies).</p>							
	Notes							
4	<p>ἰδοὺ καὶ τὰ πλοῖα τηλικαῦτα ὄντα καὶ ὑπὸ ἀνέμων σκληρῶν ἐλαυνόμενα μετὰγεται ὑπὸ ἐλαχίστου πηδαλίου ὅπου ἡ ὁρμὴ τοῦ εὐθύνοντος βούλεται.</p>							
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form
	ὄντα	Pre	Act	Ptcp	N	P	N	Εἶμι
	ἐλαυνόμενα	Pre	Pss	Ptcp	N	P	N	ἐλαυνω
	μετὰγεται	Pre	Pss	Ind	3	S		μεταγω
	εὐθύνοντος	Pre	Act	Ptcp	M	S	G	Εὐθυνω
	βούλεται	Pre	Mid	Ind	3	S		βουλομαι
	<p>Translation:</p> <p>Behold also the ships, even though they are so great and are propelled by strong winds, they (it) is guided by the smallest rudder wherever the impulse of the one steering wills.</p>							
	Notes							
5	<p>οὕτως καὶ ἡ γλῶσσα μικρὸν μέλος ἐστὶν καὶ μεγάλα αὐχεῖ. ἰδοὺ ἡλίκον πῦρ ἡλίκην ὕλην ἀνάπτει.</p>							
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form
	ἐστὶν	Pre	Act	Ind	3	S		Εἶμι
	αὐχεῖ	Pre	Act	Ind	3	S		Αὐχεω
	ἀνάπτει	Pre	Act	Ind	3	S		ἀναπτω
	<p>Translation:</p> <p>So also the tongue is a small member, but it boasts of great things. Behold how large a forest a little fire sets ablaze.</p>							

	Notes								
6	καὶ ἡ γλῶσσα πῦρ. ὁ κόσμος τῆς ἀδικίας ἡ γλῶσσα καθίσταται ἐν τοῖς μέλεσιν ἡμῶν ἡ σπιλοῦσα ὅλον τὸ σῶμα καὶ φλογίζουσα τὸν τροχὸν τῆς γενέσεως καὶ φλογιζομένη ὑπὸ τῆς γεέννης.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	καθίσταται	Pre	Mid	Ind	3	S		Καθιστημι	MV
	σπιλοῦσα	Pre	Act	Ptcp	F	S	N	Σπιλω	Attr Ptcp
	φλογίζουσα	Pre	Act	Ptcp	F	S	N	φλογίζω	Attr Ptcp
	φλογιζομένη	Pre	Pss	Ptcp	F	S	N	φλογίζω	Attr Ptcp
	Translation: And the tongue is a fire. The world of unrighteousness the tongue makes itself among our members, which stains the whole body, and sets on fire the course of life and is set on fire by hell.								
	Notes We may consider speech sins to be of lesser import. This passage shows us the true severity of speech sins.								
7	πᾶσα γὰρ φύσις θηρίων τε καὶ πετεινῶν, ἐρπετῶν τε καὶ ἐναλίων δαμάζεται καὶ δεδάμασται τῇ φύσει τῇ ἀνθρωπίνῃ,								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	δαμάζεται	Pre	Pss	Ind	3	S		δαμαζω	MV
	δεδάμασται	Per	Pss	Ind	3	S		δαμαζω	MV
	Translation: For every kind of wild beast and bird and reptile and sea creature is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.								
	Notes								

8

τὴν δὲ γλῶσσαν οὐδεὶς δαμάσαι δύναται ἀνθρώπων, ἀκατάστατον κακόν, μεστή ἰοῦ θανατηφόρου.

Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
δαμάσαι	Aor	Act	Inf				δαμαζω	Comp Inf
δύναται	Pre	Mid	Ind	3	S		Δυναμαι	MV

Translation:

But the tongue, no human being is able to tame, (it is) a restless evil, full of deadly poison

Notes

Who then can tame the tongue? Only the Father who redeems us by the Son and transforms us by his Spirit working through the Word.

9

ἐν αὐτῇ εὐλογοῦμεν τὸν κύριον καὶ πατέρα καὶ ἐν αὐτῇ καταρώμεθα τοὺς ἀνθρώπους τοὺς καθ' ὁμοίωσιν θεοῦ γεγονότας.

Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
εὐλογοῦμεν	Pre	Act	Ind	1	P		Εὐλογεω	MV
καταρώμεθα	Pre	Mid	Ind	1	P		καταραομαι	MV
γεγονότας	Per	Act	Ptcp	M	P	A	γινομαι	Attr Ptc

Translation:

With it, we bless the Lord and Father and with it we curse the men who have been created according to the likeness of God.

Notes

What follows is further critique of the “double-minded” person. My inclination is to consider the double-minded person someone in the covenant community who is not living according to his identity as a citizen of God’s kingdom and therefore acting in these contradictory ways. Because much of the critique is interspersed with the language of “my brothers”, I think it is more likely that this is loving admonition of people James considers to be family in Christ rather than scathing condemnation of charlatans mingling within the flock.

10

ἐκ τοῦ αὐτοῦ στόματος ἐξέρχεται εὐλογία καὶ κατάρᾳ. οὐ χρή, ἀδελφοί μου, ταῦτα οὕτως γίνεσθαι.

Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
ἐξέρχεται	Pre	Mid	Ind	3	S		ἐξερχομαι	MV
χρή	Pre	Act	Ind	3	S		Χραομαι	MV
γίνεσθαι	Pre	Mid	Inf				γινομαι	Comp Inf

	<p>Translation:</p> <p>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing, my brothers, these things ought not to be so.</p> <p>Notes</p>								
11	μήτι ἡ πηγὴ ἐκ τῆς αὐτῆς ὁπῆς βρύει τὸ γλυκὺ καὶ τὸ πικρὸν;								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	βρύει	Pre	Act	Ind	3	S		βρυω	MV
	<p>Translation:</p> <p>Surely the spring from the same opening does not pour forth both fresh water and salt water?</p> <p>Notes</p>								
12	μὴ δύναται, ἀδελφοί μου, συκὴ ἐλαίας ποιῆσαι ἢ ἄμπελος σῦκα; οὔτε ἄλυκὸν γλυκὺ ποιῆσαι ὕδωρ.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	δύναται	Pre	Mid	Ind	3	S		Δυναμαι	MV
	ποιῆσαι	Aor	Act	Inf				ποιεω	Comp Inf
	<p>Translation:</p> <p>My brothers, is a fig tree able to produce olives or a grapevine figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.</p> <p>Notes</p>								
13	Τίς σοφὸς καὶ ἐπιστήμων ἐν ὑμῖν; δειξάτω ἐκ τῆς καλῆς ἀναστροφῆς τὰ ἔργα αὐτοῦ ἐν πραΰτητι σοφίας.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	δειξάτω	Aor	Act	Impv	3	S		δεικνυμι	Jussive
	Translation:								

	Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show from (his) good conduct his works in the meekness of wisdom.							
	Notes πραϋτητι σοφίας – meekness of wisdom, wise meekness, meekness characterized by wisdom (attributive genitive)							
14	εἰ δὲ ζῆλον πικρὸν ἔχετε καὶ ἐριθείαν ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν, μὴ κατακαυχᾶσθε καὶ ψεύδεσθε κατὰ τῆς ἀληθείας.							
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form
	ἔχετε	Pre	Act	Ind	2	P		ἔχω
	κατακαυχᾶσθε	Pre	Mid	Impv	2	P		κατακαυχασμαι
	ψεύδεσθε	Pre	Mid	Impv	2	P		ψευδομαι
	Translation: But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.							
	Notes κατὰ τῆς ἀληθείας is significant because it probably signifies more than an affront against generic “truth” which would be platitudinous given the inherent meaning of ψεύδεσθε. The point being made is a more specific one that there is something fundamentally antithetical to the truth of the gospel (cf. 1:18, 1:21) in attitudes of bitter jealousy and selfish ambition.							
15	οὐκ ἔστιν αὕτη ἡ σοφία ἄνωθεν κατερχομένη ἀλλ’ ἐπίγειος, ψυχικὴ, δαιμονιώδης.							
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form
	ἔστιν	Pre	Act	Ind	3	S		Εἰμι
	κατερχομένη	Pre	Mid	Ptcp	F	S	N	κατερχομαι
	Translation: This is not the wisdom which comes down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.							
	Notes Cf. every good and perfect gift in 1:17							

16	ὅπου γὰρ ζῆλος καὶ ἐριθεία, ἐκεῖ ἀκαταστασία καὶ πᾶν φαῦλον πρᾶγμα.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	Translation:								
	For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there will be disorder and every base deed.								
17	ἡ δὲ ἄνωθεν σοφία πρῶτον μὲν ἀγνή ἐστίν, ἔπειτα εἰρηνική, ἐπιεικής, εὐπειθής, μεστή ἐλέους καὶ καρπῶν ἀγαθῶν, ἀδιάκριτος, ἀνυπόκριτος.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ἐστίν	Pre	Act	Ind	3	S		Εἰμι	Eq Verb
	Translation:								
18	καρπὸς δὲ δικαιοσύνης ἐν εἰρήνῃ σπείρεται τοῖς ποιοῦσιν εἰρήνην.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	σπείρεται	Pre	Pss	Ind	3	S		σπειρω	MV
	ποιοῦσιν	Pre	Act	Ptcp	M	P	D	Ποιεω	Subst Ptcp
18	Translation:								
	And a fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by the ones who make peace.								
	Notes								
	Cf. Matt 5:9 vis the emphasis in the beatitudes on 'righteousness'								