

James 3:1-2
"The Stumbling Walk"

Intro: Scary and convicting verses in Scripture

* We must recognize the _____ responsibility and potential
_____ that accompanies the _____ of God's word.

- **A leading reason for the sin issues that James addresses in this letter:** Many first century Christians were not receiving the biblical teaching that they needed.

- **A crucial reminder:** God has not only appointed the word that is to be taught; He has also appointed the teachers of His word.

- **A tendency for unbelievers:** The tendency to twist and distort the teachings of God's word in a whole host of ways.

- **A temptation in the first century that still exists today:** To go into the ministry of teaching God's word for the wrong reasons.

- **The individuals who received the most 'woe to you' statements from the Lord Jesus Christ:** The first century religious authorities.

- **The unbelieving Pharisees:** Added to the word of God with their own man-made traditions.

- **The unbelieving Sadducees:** The theological skeptics who did not believe in angels, spirits, or the resurrection of the dead.

- **Examples of extraordinary calls to the ministry:** Found in God's calls to Jeremiah and Saul of Tarsus.

- **Charles Spurgeon:** "Whatever call a man may pretend to have, if he is not called to holiness, he certainly has not been called to the ministry."

- **Two cautions for those who would preach or teach God's word:** A stricter judgment and the truth that 'we all stumble in many ways.'

- **One of James' great pastoral concerns:** His concern with the sinful speech of the first century Christians.

- **"We all stumble in many ways":** Means we all violate the Law of God in many ways.

- **Personal Application:**