



The Book of James

**Who Can
Control
the Tongue?**

James 3:1-12

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¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. ³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

The tongue is a
powerful gift that
sets direction.
(vv. 3-4)

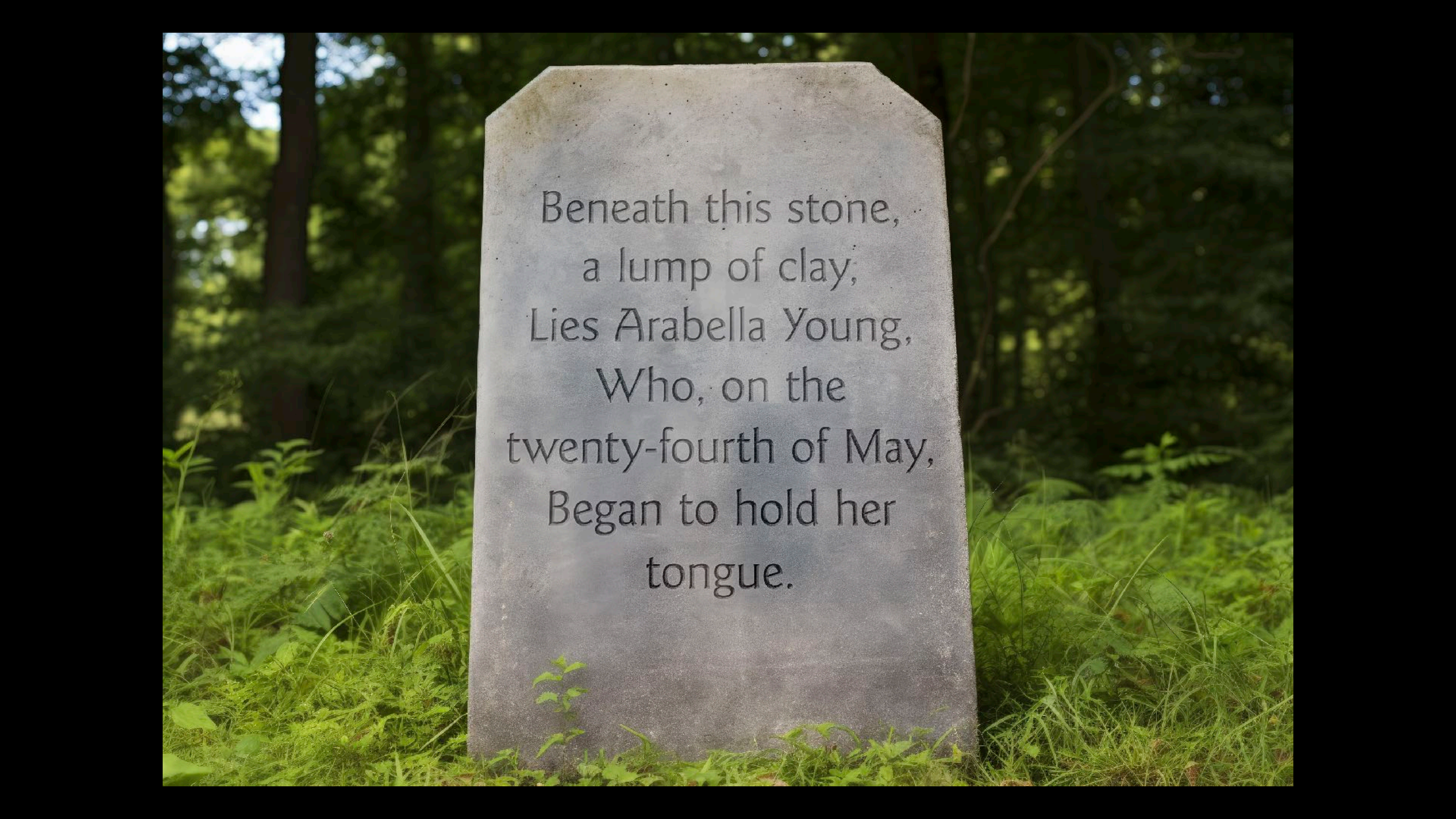


The tongue is a
powerful gift that
changes condition.
(vv. 5-6)



The tongue is a
powerful gift that
reveals composition.
(vv. 9-10)





Beneath this stone,
a lump of clay,
Lies Arabella Young,
Who, on the
twenty-fourth of May,
Began to hold her
tongue.

But when misused, the
tongue drags others in
the wrong course.



But when misused,
the tongue
burns others.



The tongue is out of
control in a divided
heart.





“We are to understand...
that as no one is able of
himself to govern his
tongue, we must fly to the
Lord for his assistance.”

ST. AUGUSTINE, QUOTED BY GEORGE LEO HAYDOCK

James 3:2

We all stumble in many ways.

Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

Jesus did not curse the world while on the cross, but through his body he made reconciliation to form a body—the church.

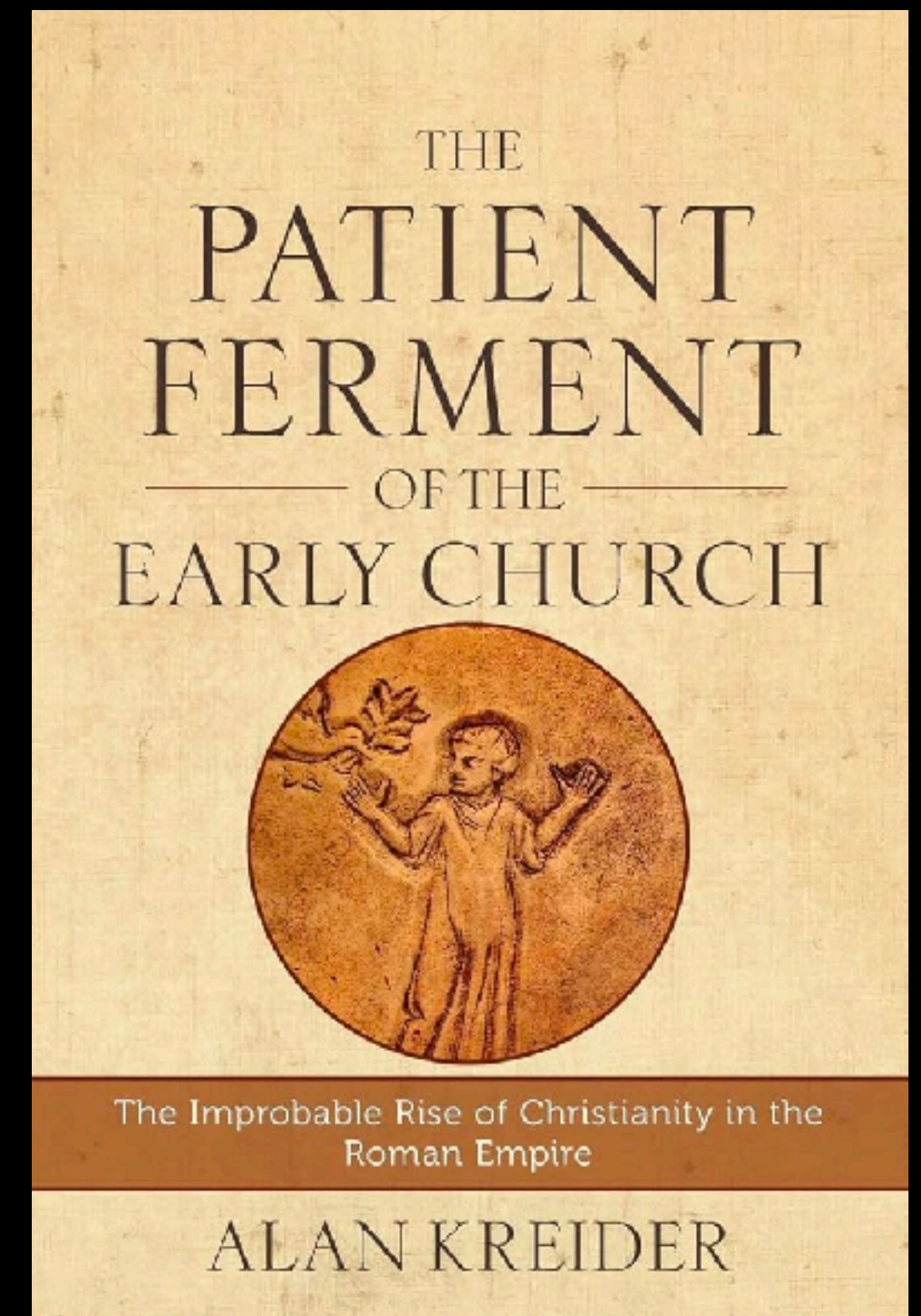
(COLOSSIANS 1:22-24)

2 Peter 2:23-24

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Some should be teachers and
all should be witnesses!

“But people who are contentious, layfolk as well as clergy, are of no help to God. Indeed, they reduce the people of God. Either they expel from the church the people they accuse, or they themselves leave the church, in both cases sinning against God by scattering God’s flock.”



ALAN KREIDER, *THE PATIENT FERMENT OF THE EARLY CHURCH*

PRACTICE SILENCE

RECITE THE CREEDS

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell,
the third day he rose from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.