

Double-Minded Ones Are Unstable, Jms 1:8; Progressive Agenda Illustrates Lake of Fire; 3 Mandates for Cosmic Recovery, Jms 4:8; Competing Mind-Sets, Rom 8:6

- 31) The double-minded person operates from a shotgun mentality. He has no connected thought. He thinks in circles from vague ideas that, when expressed, are self-contradictory and non sequiturs.
- 32) Thus his application to life from this distorted inventory results in a literal spraying of disjointed statements, much like the pattern of a shotgun, and which explains his inconsistent behavior.
- 33) James 1:8 declares that the double-minded man is “unstable in all his ways.”
- 34) The instability is expressed by the predicate adjective **ἀκατάστατος, akatastatos**: “that which is unsettled and unsteady and therefore unstable.”
- 35) Such a person is fickle: he is unreliable because he is subject to change his mind on a dime and is not capable of taking a stand.
- 36) Such a person is unstable “in all his ways”: **ἐν πάσαις ταῖς ὁδοῖς αὐτοῦ, en pasais tais hodois autou**. The key word here is *hodois*, the plural noun from the locative of sphere of **ὁδός, hodos**: literally “a way, highway, road, street” but metaphorically it refers to a “way of thought, a manner of life, or behavior patterns.”
- 37) *Hodos* is followed by the genitive of the plural personal pronoun *autos* signifying that those mentioned have facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness whose only consistency is their inconsistency. They cannot be trusted because they live in a world of disorder.
- 38) A synonym of *hodos* is **τροχιά, trochia**: another hapax legomenon found in Hebrews 12:13 that means “wheel-tracks” and which when used metaphorically refers to behavior patterns, character traits, and lifestyles.

James 1:8 - A double-minded man functions in the sphere of instability in all of his thoughts, decisions, and actions.

- 39) Progressive ideology cultivates this type of individual since its core principle is that there are no absolute principles. There is no black and white since everything is gray. There is no absolute truth since, without an overriding set of standards from a single source of recognized authority, what is true for one person may not be so for another.
- 40) Theology has its contributors to the chaos since the central foundational doctrines of the Christian faith have been made fuzzy, watered-down, or ignored, altogether.

- 41) The result is a generation of unstable people who meander through life with no direction since their souls are so disordered they are incapable of knowing what to do about any issue that comes before them.
- 42) What is occurring in our country is the advent of a disordered society that in its decline digresses toward the circumstance to be suffered in the lake of fire.
- 43) One of the questions on the Berachah Church Doctrinal Questionnaire is, "What is your concept of heaven and the lake of fire?" Here's my response to the latter:

Griffin, Joe. *Berachah Church Doctrinal Questionnaire*. (Houston: unpublished manuscript, 1979), 46:

My conception of retribution is that inhabitants of the Lake of Fire are in an eternal state of non-order both individually and collectively. Due to the complete absence of the laws of divine establishment, basic morality, and the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit, the situation is chaotic.

Collectively, since there is no order there is no authority and as a result no freedom. The absence of authority means that all are equal, none having any vested power over another. There are no laws and no system to establish any.

Individually, all seek their own disordered way. Since there is not one syllable of divine viewpoint to be found, all thought becomes massive and unrestrained human viewpoint resulting in absolute evil.

Environmentally, the heat from the Lake of Fire creates perpetual thirst and saps the energy necessary to seek the escape which does not exist.

The unbeliever, ensnared in a mental state of complete frustration, bewilderment, and disarray, staggers through an anfractuouse maze filled with equally distraught souls, all seeking a thought which might offer some hope but no one can be found who can oblige.

Consequently, hell is nothing more than total equality taken to its ultimate extreme. The result is the elimination of all authority, without which there can be no order, no justice, and no freedom. It is no wonder that "there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 8:12).

- 44) The *dipsuchos* man has a disordered soul and because of this he gravitates to abnormalities and he cannot control his impulses.
- 45) This is described by James as *akatastatos* or "unstable." When the unstable soul continues along this path he becomes unstable "in all his ways." The word for "ways" is *hodos* and refers metaphorically to character traits, behavior patterns, and a lifestyle that define him as a confused Christian: *dipsuchos* – double-minded.
- 46) The corrected translation of the passage reads this way:

James 4:4 - You adulteresses [μοιχαλίσ, *moichalis*: **reversionists**], do you not know that the love of the world is a continual status quo of alienation from God? Therefore, whoever has decided to be a lover of the world appoints himself the enemy [ἐχθρός, *echthros*] of God.

v. 5 - Or do you imagine that the Scripture speaks without purpose in the face of the jealous [φθόνος, *phthonos*] reversionist (The Holy Spirit, Who dwells permanently in us, deeply loves [ἐπιποθέω, *epipothēō*].

v. 6 - Moreover, He keeps on giving greater grace. On which account He says): [**Proverbs 3:34**] “God keeps on opposing the arrogant but He keeps on giving grace to the humble.”

v. 7 - Be subordinate [ὑποτάσσω, *hupotassō*] under the authority of God, but oppose the devil and he will escape from your presence.

v. 8 - Come near to God [imperative of ἐγγίζω, *engizō*: rebound and return to Bible class] and He will come near to you [forgiveness and restoration of fellowship]. Cleanse [imperative of καθαρίζω, *katharizō*] your hands you sinners [ἀμαρτωλοί, *hamartōloi*] and purify [imperative of ἁγνίζω, *hagnizō*] your streams of consciousness you double-minded ones [δίψυχοι, *dipsuchoi*].

16. This passage in James sheds light on the impact of Romans 8:6 which reads this way as far as we have gone:

Romans 8:6 - Consequently, the mindset [**behavior patterns, character traits, and lifestyle**] from the source of the sinful nature is terminal death ...

17. The result of a thought pattern that submits to the authority of the flesh is terminal death. This is put in contrast to the other option which is introduced by the adversative conjunction **δέ, de** translated “but” and it connects two antithetical clauses.

18. The subject is repeated from the first clause, the noun **φρόνημα, phronēma**: a mind-set, disposition, or thought pattern. We have used “mind-set” so far but the others are appropriate to the idea behind the word. The concept is “you are what you think” and “as a man thinks in his soul so is he.”

19. In this contrasting clause the mind-set of the individual submits to the authority of the Spirit, the ablative of source from the noun **Πνεῦμα, Pneuma**, referring to the Holy Spirit:

Romans 8:6 - Consequently, the mindset [**behavior patters, character traits, and lifestyle**] from the source of the sinful nature is terminal death but the mindset from the source of the Holy Spirit ...