Get Your Mind Right

(James 4:7-8 KJV)

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

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e have had the great privileges of celebrating the Lord's Supper in the past. We have celebrated God's forgiving love in the past. Now I’m bescheeching every believer to live as saved and forgiven people.

James this great vessel of God, as you know, speaks as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ to diligent believers of the faith. In other words, his audience is those considered to be servants of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. They have been saved and forgiven by the blood of Jesus.

In our Bible reading before us, James talks to those who are double-minded (James 4:8). This is not the only time he has used this phrase. In chapter one, James says some Christians are double-minded when it comes to prayer (James 1:8). They believe God answers prayer and yet they doubt God answers prayer. They ask God for wisdom, yet they also depend upon human wisdom. One moment they trust and believe in God; the next moment they rely on self.

These people are like the wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. James is thinking of waves on the Sea of Galilee. One moment the wave is driven North, South, East, West, or cross roads in-between; and then the next moment it is driven in the exact opposite direction. Those who are double-minded are like the waves of the sea.

The Bible is filled with stories of double-minded people. I think of Jacob who pretended to be Esau and stole his brother's birthright. I think of Abraham who used his wife's maidservant to father a child. I think of David who grabbed his neighbor's wife and had her husband killed. I think of Peter who denied knowing the Lord when faced with danger. I think of Israel at the time of Elijah and Ahab.

If there ever were a people who were double-minded, it was Israel limping between two opinions; Israel tried to follow Baal and God; they tried to serve Baal and God; they bowed in worship before Baal and God. These are God's people we are talking about. Yet, they are double-minded.

 Is it any different today? Regrettably no, in much of the world today it is difficult to observe any difference between those who call themselves Christians and those who are not Christians. Different surveys show that many church members are double-minded, professing faith in Christ while embracing the lifestyle of this fallen world.

 Did you know, for instance, that the divorce rate among Christians is exactly the same as among those who are not Christians? Did you know that Christian teens and adult singles have pre-marital sex almost as much as non-Christian teens and adult singles? Did you know that Christians have the same problem with controlling the tongue as the unbeliever? Did you know that Christians exalt rich people and cater to them in much the same way as the world does?