

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

HE THAT DOUBTETH A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES PART FIVE OF SIXTY FOUR

No more fitting description of the doubter has been made than that of James who says, "He that doubteth is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed" (James 1:6). To watch the billows and breakers of the mighty sea is to behold an ever changing and moving mass. So is the one who doubts.

He who doubts has not fully committed himself to God and His word. He is indecisive and uncertain. He has no stability. He is never peaceful or settled. He is the opposite of Abraham who "wavered not through unbelief" (Romans 4:20). The man who doubts is ever ruled by the circumstances about him. Filled with doubts he becomes "doubleminded...unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8). Uncertain of himself, he is ever switching paths. Having no determined faith, he lacks singleness of heart. Debating each step, he develops no earnestness. Back and forth, to and fro, as the raging sea, he expends his energy upon the rocks of human existence to die a worthless wreck of humanity.

God does not desire that man spend his earthly existence in such a futile effort. He does not desire that we be "tossed to

and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14). Instead, He desires that we accept the truth by which we "may grow up in all things unto him who is the head, even Christ" (Ephesians 4:15). God has revealed the true and lasting way to life, but it requires that we believe in Him. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye doubleminded" (James 4:8). To believe is an exercise of our will. It requires that we yield to Him and His word. We must believe He is and is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

No life is complete without faith. No man can live by his own sight alone. There is much that is unknowable to man. At some point we must be willing to accept "by faith" the things we cannot discover by our own wisdom, or else live our lives "like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed." "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house." (Acts 16:31).

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