

1. We introduced the study of the Book of James with several lessons on the subject of reversionism. So far in chapter 3, we have observed that the first 14 verses have provided numerous examples and situations that serve to define and illustrate the various stages of reversionism.
2. The concept that is opposed to reversionism is wisdom which James uses three times in the last paragraph of James 3: verse 13 is positive, verse 15 is negative, and verse 17 is positive.
3. Verse 15 reveals that the category of wisdom James is discussing is “not that which finds its origin in heaven,” but quite the opposite and whose source is best described as *cosmos diabolicus*: the devil’s world.

James 3:14 But if you have bitter envy and selfish pursuit of one’s personal self-interests in your *kardia*’s stream of consciousness, do not arrogantly boast and lie against the truth. (EXT)

4. The problem that exists in every Bible class is the presence of someone or several who appear to be positive, take copious notes, and are cordial toward others with “hail-fellow-well-met” gestures.⁵
5. James is making the distinction in verses 14 and 15 that those in reversionism often put on a show, but under certain circumstances the real personality emerges, and they don’t know how to shut up.
6. This creates uncomfortable circumstances for those who are consistently making the spiritual advance but when a fellow member of the flock allows his real self to be revealed it becomes uncomfortable for all concerned.
7. These types become the catalyst for introducing Operation Chaos to the otherwise tranquility of the assembled congregation.⁶ This word is associated with the breakdown of order in an organization or in society:

A state of confusion or disorder. Synonyms: anarchy, chaos, lawlessness mean a breakdown in law or order. Anarchy implies total absence or suspension of government; chaos, the utter negation of law or order; lawlessness, a prevalent or habitual disregard of law or order.⁷

⁵ If a man or his actions are described as hail-fellow-well-met, they are very friendly and enthusiastic, sometimes in a way that is not sincere: *He was greeted with the usual hail-fellow-well-met slap on the back and handshake.*

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/hail-fellow-well-met>

⁶ “Chaos: the inherent unpredictability in the behavior of a complex natural system; a state of utter confusion” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (2014).

⁷ Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary, 2d ed. (1953), s.v. “anarchy.”



8. These English synonyms are traced back to the Greek words, **ἀναρχία** (*anarchía*) and **χάος** (*cháos*).
9. In both Greek and English, these words refer primarily to the breakdown of law and order in society. However, the same thing occurs in the soul of a reversionist. His guidance and restraints are dismissed in favor of his own personal desires and motivations.
10. Whereas the Bible provides the believer with guidance and imperatives from Scripture—i.e., the Word of God—the reversionist exchanges these forms of permissions or restraints by adopting his own personal desires and impulses.
11. The abandonment of biblically acquired divine guidance in exchange for lust-pattern assuagements result in Operation Chaos.
12. Here are some principles that highlight the concepts contained in verse 15 that result in the production of anarchy and chaos in the soul of the reversionist:
 1. Although the person in verse 15 is a believer, he is involved in Operation Chaos, but because he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, he cannot suffer the indignity of demon possession.
 2. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit occurs in the body and a demon cannot occupy the same environment as does the Holy Spirit.
 3. However, because the reversionist is out of fellowship, he no longer retains the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit. This allows his soul to be propagandized by the doctrines of demons.

1 Timothy 4:1 The Holy Spirit explicitly says that in later times [**Church Age**] some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits [**demonic propaganda**] and the doctrines of demons [**the Satanic Academy of Cosmic Didactics**]. (EXT)
 4. Many squared away Protestant churches rightly stress the gospel of “faith alone in Christ alone,” however some of them do not then present exegetical studies of Scripture in order to build up an inventory of biblical absolutes in believers’ souls.
 5. A believer cannot survive in the hostile environment of the devil’s world without the working objects of biblical principles.
 6. What if our military provided recruitment depots for enlisting soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and then, without any training, sent them off to war?



7. This is what does happen in far too many Protestant churches. They evangelize the heathen, insist they attend church, and then continue to evangelize more heathen.
8. Then, back out into the devil's world they go without any armor in their souls to fight off the "flaming missiles of the evil one."

Ephesians 6:11 Put on for yourselves the full armor from our God that you might be able to hold your ground against the strategy and tactics of the devil.

v. 12 Because our spiritual hand-to-hand combat keeps on being not against flesh and blood, but against the demon generals, commissioned officers, world rulers of darkness, and against special forces of wickedness.

v. 13 Because of this combat, pick up and put on the full armor of God, in order that you might have the ability to resist in the evil day, and even having achieved everything, to oppose the forces of Satan.

v. 14 Stand fast, therefore, after having buckled around your waist the belt of doctrine in your *kardía*, also having put on the body armor of righteousness,

v. 15 and having put combat boots on your feet with the equipment of the gospel of reconciliation;

v. 16 in addition to these things, keep on picking up and carrying the shield of faith, with which shield you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.

v. 17 And receive the helmet which refers to being saved, also the sword of the Holy Spirit which is doctrine from God. (EXT)

9. In this passage, Paul uses the implements of military dress and weaponry to illustrate the invisible assets the believer possesses in his soul from consistent Bible study and spiritual growth.
10. Those who do not take advantage of developing these assets into his soul suffer the diminishment of doctrinal ideas which are systematically replaced by the doctrines of demons.
11. This sad circumstance is typical of those who, although saved, have either not progressed spiritually or, having done so, moved into reversionism.

12. This inversion of thought is described by Paul in:
- Ephesians 4:17** This I explain and make as an emphatic demand by means of the Lord, that you no longer continue walking just as also the Gentiles keep walking by means of the vacuum in their souls,
- v. 18** having become darkened in their way of thinking, having been estranged, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which keeps on being in them, because of the hardness of their *kardías*;
- v. 19** who, having become callous, have betrayed themselves to promiscuous debauchery, resulting in the practice of every kind of immorality in the sphere of insatiable lust. (EXT)
13. These passages describe and amplify the problem James is addressing in his third chapter. There is a form of wisdom that can be facilitated in a reversionist's soul.
14. But James has been building his case that this form of wisdom "is not that which finds its origin in heaven." Instead, it is "common to *cosmos diabolicus*, human viewpoint, and doctrines of demons."
15. Lucifer has capitalized on false doctrines and cosmic theological concepts to develop various religions that are erroneously listed among biblically orthodox New Testament churches.
16. The glaring test case to determine the authenticity of any of these organizations is to ask the question posed by the Philippian jailer to Paul and Silas, "What must I do to be saved?"
17. These men's response seals the deal on what one must do:
- Acts 16:31** They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."
18. All other responses are heretical! They are unbiblical. Organizations that purport to be Christian but add anything whatsoever to what Paul and Silas told that jailer, reduces them to a social club occupied by heathen.
19. Some of these include organizations which profess to be Christian, but whose doctrine of salvation betrays their heresy found in the following examples:

Church of Christ Scientist

Founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879. Members accept Eddy's writings as divine revelation and interpret the Bible allegorically through her works. The most significant text in the church is *Science and Health*, which was published in 1875. Eddy referred to this volume as containing the perfect word of God, and thus was divine and infallible. The Christology of Christian Science denies a physical incarnation of Christ.

The metaphysical presuppositions of the church insist that heaven and hell are present states of man's thoughts, not real future dwelling places. There is no clergy or priesthood. The sacraments are not special rites. The Eucharist is silent spiritual communion with God. No physical elements are used.⁸

Roman Catholicism

Supernatural life is mediated to Christians through the sacraments administered by the hierarchy to whom obedience is due. The sacramental system worked out at the Council of Trent (1545–63) envisaged sacraments primarily as causes of grace. Recent Catholic sacramental theology emphasizes their function as signs of faith. (p. 956)

Three of the sacraments—baptism, confirmation, Eucharist—are concerned with Christian initiation.

Baptism. The sacrament is understood to remit original sin and all personal sin of which the recipient sincerely repents. All must be baptized, or they cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

Confirmation. A theology not developed until the Middle Ages. It is said to be the gift of the Spirit for strengthening while baptismal grace is for forgiveness.

Eucharist. Distinctively Catholic doctrines on the Eucharist include the sacrificial nature of the Mass and transubstantiation. The unbloody sacrifice of the Mass is identified with the bloody sacrifice of the cross, in that both are offered for the sins of the living and the dead.⁹

(End JAS3-93. See JAS3-94.Rev for continuation of study at p. 391.)

⁸ P. G. Chappell, "Church of Christ, Scientist," in *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Walter A. Elwell (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984), 243.

⁹ F. S. Piggin, "Roman Catholicism," in *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Walter A. Elwell (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984), 956, 957.

