**The double-minded person** dkm July 2022
We sometimes use the adjective ‘committed’ when describing a Christian. What do we mean by this term? We do not find it in the Bible because the opposite would be an uncommitted Christian, and this is a contradiction in terms. The term ‘Christian’ refers to a follower of Christ, and Christ does not have uncommitted or half-hearted followers. Jesus said, ‘If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me’ (Mat 16:24). ‘No one can serve two masters, either he will hate the one and love the other; or he will be loyal to one and despise the other’ (Mat 6:24). I do not follow a football team, but I cannot image a loyal follower of the Panthers being found supporting the Eels. We know about commitment to a sporting team but seem not to understand the meaning of commitment to Christ. That said, there is a general reluctance to making commitments in our generation; we do not want to commit to a job, to a political party, to friends, or even to marriage.

Our society it marked by double-minded people who are unstable in all their ways (James 1:8). Sadly, such people are also found in the church of Christ. Too many Christians are blown about by every wind of teaching- and they hear a lot on YouTube! Too many Christians think they can be friends of God and friends of the world at the same time. But the Bible makes it clear that this is not possible; ‘Friendship with the world is enmity towards God’ (James 4:4). James calls such people spiritual adulterers- they say they love God but their life betrays a greater love for the world, a love for money, and for pleasure.

In his summary of the ten commandments, did Jesus give the first as, ‘Love the Lord your God with your heart, you soul, and your mind’? Did he say, ‘Love the Lord your God with half your heart, half your soul and half your mind’? No! Jesus commanded, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind’ (Mat 22:37). If you cannot do this, then do not call yourself a follower of Jesus. It is all or nothing when it comes to following Jesus!

The Psalmist expressed hatred towards the double-minded man (Ps 119:113). In saying this he reflected God’s hatred of people who hate making a commitment to Him. James (1:7, 8) tells us that the double-minded man is unstable in all his ways and should not think that he will receive anything from God. He later speaks of the double-minded man in the same sentence as sinners who need to purify their hearts. I have said it many times because it is true, Jesus has no half-hearted followers; you are either with him with all you heart, or you are against him.

The apostle Paul speaks of ‘enduring hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ’ (2Tim 2:3). No commander wants half-hearted soldiers in his unit; what a disaster they would be in the heat of battle. Yet some think that being a half-hearted follower of Jesus Christ is okay. They think that Jesus will understand when they prefer their friends or their family above him. They think that Jesus will understand when they regard mowing the lawn on Sunday morning as more important than being in church. What sort of witness do you give to Jesus when worshipping him ranks below your sleep, your house, or your family?

The Lord God loves his chosen ones with a single-minded love, with the total commitment of covenant love. Could anything but total, whole-hearted love explain God’s sending of his only begotten Son into this world to die for you? God did not waver when it came to sending Jesus into this world, yet you waver when it comes to showing commitment to this God who loves you so much. How can this be? It can be because of sin, because you are attracted to the things of this world, or are listening to Satan rather than Jesus.

Schizophrenia is a terrible illness, but ‘spiritual schizophrenia’ is even worse. Yet this is the condition of too many Christians. Their condition can be described as, ‘a basic division in the soul that leads to thinking speaking and acting that contradicts one’s claim to belong to God’. If you examine your heart and find evidence of this malady, there is hope. If you confess your sin and humble yourself before the Lord, he will lift you up and restore you to a whole-hearted commitment to himself.