

20. Under the sin unto death, you are either very sick, or you're dying, and that is the last stage of reversionism on this earth.
21. In that stage, all you can do is rebound, which means to go from negative to positive.

James 5:9 Stop criticizing [present active imperative mood #45 of prohibition of the verb, μή στενάζω (*mē stenázō*)] members of the royal family of God, against others, fellow believers, so that [ἵνα (*hina*)] you yourselves will not be judged [negative μή (*mē*) plus the aorist passive subjunctive of the verb, κρίνω (*krínō*)]; “Behold! (EXT)

- a. “Behold the Judge stands.” This the perfect active indicative of the verb, ἵστημι *hístēmi*. It means, “He stands in the past, from the time you go into reversionism.” Here you are going towards spiritual maturity. Here you are going toward reversionism. Remember, you and God agree on one thing: you want to be happy; God wants you to be happy. The only disagreement is how to do it, and capacity for it.
- b. God wants you to move toward spiritual maturity, so you have the capacity for life, for freedom, for love, for happiness, for grace, for prosperity. Reversionism is just like legalism: you try to do it yourself. You go for what makes you happy. Like we saw in monetary reversionism.
- c. You go all out for money, neglecting doctrine. There is nothing wrong with money, except where money causes you to neglect doctrine.
- d. If you are ambitious, there is nothing wrong with succeeding in your profession, or your job, or your business, provided you do not neglect doctrine.
- e. Doctrine is the key to happiness. It is the only source of happiness since doctrine in spiritual maturity gives you the capacity. So, you and God are both in agreement on one thing at least. But it is how it should be accomplished, that is where the disagreement occurs.
- f. If you try to get happiness on your own and neglect doctrine, you will never make it. And, once you get into reversionism, God very graciously warns you in:

Revelation 3:20 Listen! I am standing at the door and knocking! If anyone hears My voice and opens the door I will come into his home and share a meal with him, and he with Me. (NET)

22. He stands at the door and knocks, as it says in Revelation 3:20, another reversionism passage. And, when you finally open the door, that means you have rebounded.
23. However, if you choose to remain in reversionism and try to attain happiness on your own, and neglect doctrine, you can't recover fellowship with God. And, once you get into reversionism, God very graciously warns you: "I am standing at the door and knocking!"
24. In this context, this is God calling you to recover through confession alone to God alone according to 1 John 1:9. If you continue to reject Him, you are still in jeopardy of dying the sin unto death.
25. You see, over in Revelation 3:16, a person is "lukewarm," and that's reversionism. "Hot" is a believer moving toward spiritual maturity. "Lukewarm" is a believer who has 'cooled off' and is not making the advance. "Cold" is either believer in reversionism or an unbeliever who has not yet come to the cross.
26. When Jesus Christ stands at the door of your life without response, He starts *beating* on the door of your life. "Beating on the door" is divine discipline. Every time you hurt, then you will begin to pay attention. If you will not take in Bible doctrine, then you are like the mule. God must put knots on your soul before you will wake up.
27. So, God "knocking on the door" is simple. It is just God telling you to, "Wake up! Get your volition organized!" It is an expression of God's love. To apply the pressure to get you back in fellowship to resume your spiritual advance.

Revelation 3:20 Listen! I am standing at the door and knocking! If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come into his home and share a meal with him, and he with me.
(NET)

28. In Revelation 3:20, the "knocking on the door" is a disciplinary warning of reversionism. If you do not pay any attention any other way, you will pay attention when God turns the right screws. This is why God must, sometimes, take very stringent steps, which we recall from:

Hebrews 12:6 "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives."
(NASB)

Summary:

1. Constant criticism, slander, maligning, judging, habitual, unrestrained verbal sin is a sign of reversionism.



2. The believer in reversionism cannot redeem time, which is really what this book is all about: “how to redeem time.” In the first chapter it was: “Do not just be a hearer of the word, be a doer is a believer who applies doctrine.

James 1:22 But keep on becoming [**present middle imperative of imperative mood #13: γίνομαι (gínomai)**]: doers of the implanted Word, and not only hearers who deceive themselves due to self-induced stupidity. (EXT)

3. For the reversionistic believer, God has a system of disciplinary warnings. When He stands at the door of his soul and knocks is the actual discipline.
4. The believer under divine discipline is miserable – not redeeming time, not fulfilling the purpose for which he remains in this life. This is the way God seeks to get his attention.
5. As a believer, you can come to Bible class and grow in grace under the authority of your pastor, or you can go negative toward doctrine and ignore the authority of the pastor.
6. The only way you can recognize your pastor’s authority is through the doctrine he teaches. If you go negative toward the doctrine taught, you come directly under God’s authority.
7. In this case, you have wandered out of the local church. You are directly under God’s authority. God takes his wandering sheep, and He hits them with divine discipline.
8. God must get the believers attention when he has chosen to get out from under the authority of his pastor. Sooner or later, discipline hurts long enough for the reversionistic believer to realize he is out of fellowship.
9. As long as God has a purpose for your life, as long as you hang in there with doctrine, there’s no reason for you to get under reversionism and go out under the “sin unto death.”
10. No one ever died the sin unto death unless he was a reversionist. Reversionism is the great problem we face today.
11. Now, here’s another problem in the text: this sentence is not completed. It is postponed by a parenthesis.
12. The sentence in verse twelve.

James 5:12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear [**present active imperative of prohibition of the verb, ὀμνῶμι (ómnumi)**], either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath. But let your “Yes” be yes and your “No” be no, so that you may not fall into judgment. (NET)



13. The verbal reversionism is interrupted by verse 12 and we have a parenthesis. In the parenthesis, we see that not all suffering is for discipline. Not all suffering is punitive. In this particular passage, we have a short dissertation on the fact:

If you are suffering, it doesn't mean that you wake up and go positive for doctrine. It may be that you are growing up and you need some suffering for blessing for growth."

14. In verses ten and eleven, we have parentheses to set up a contrast. Contrast between suffering for discipline on one hand - the reversionist's suffering – and the advancing believer's suffering, on the other hand.
15. You see, in verse nine, we have the reversionists' suffering. **Verse nine:** reversionists' divine discipline. **Verses ten and eleven:** suffering for blessing, which is the advancing believer's suffering. These two verses are best understood by considering them within parentheses.
16. And then, we go on to verse twelve and pick up, again, reversionism and divine discipline for verbal reversionism.
17. Here are how James 5:9 in three English versions followed by an expanded translation:

King James Version: [kjv]

James 5:9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the Judge standeth before the door.

New American Standard Bible: [nasb]

James 5:9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

New International Version: [niv]

James 5:9 Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

New English Translation: [NET]

James 5:9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge stands before the gates!