

1 Timothy 6:4

“mentally diseased”

by Barbara Anderson

# 1 Timothy 6:4 - "Mentally Diseased"

Although there have been many discussions over the past few weeks on many Jehovah's Witness related Internet discussion boards regarding the use of the words in the *New World Translation* (NWT) about the words, "mentally diseased," today was the first time I really carefully examined the scripture under discussion. And when I did, I realized that I was not understanding the real issue so I reread the sentence in question in 1 Timothy 6:4 in the *NWT* which therein states "...he is puffed up [with pride], not understanding anything, but being **mentally diseased over questionings and debates about words.**"

When I looked at many other translations this is what I found that exact line and the words "mentally diseased" translated as:

*King James Version:* "He is proud, knowing nothing, but **doting** about questions and strifes of words..."

*Today's English Version:* "He has an **unhealthy desire** to argue and quarrel about words, ..."

*Living Bible:* "He is **quibbling** over the meaning of Christ's words and stirring ..."

*New International Version:* "he has an **unhealthy interest** in controversies and arguments ..."

*Phillips Modern English:* "His mind is a **morbid jumble** of disputation and argument, ..."

*Revised Standard Version:* "he has a **morbid craving** for controversy and for disputes about words, ..."

*Jerusalem Bible:* "...with a **craze for** questioning everything and arguing about words."

*New English Bible:* "He is **morbidly keen** on mere verbal questions and quibbles, ..."

*The Amplified Bible, 1987:* He has a **morbid fondness** for controversy and disputes and strife about words.

## Very Important:

It is verse **5** of Chapter 6 (**not verse 4**) that mentions those who left Christ teachings have a "warped mind" or are "depraved in mind" or have "corrupt minds," or have "minds do not function," or "minds warped by sin" which would seem to be a better place to render these words as "mentally diseased."

However, the above words are **not** what the *New World Translation* renders "mentally diseased." It is in verse 4 as I've written above that the NWT renders "mentally diseased" and as you can read from the context of that sentence they have harshly rendered "morbidly keen," "morbid craving," "craze for questioning," "unhealthy desire to argue," "unhealthy interest," and "quibbling over words" with the words, "mentally diseased." The NWT went overboard translating these words as "mentally diseased." The problem is with the NWT and not the other translations regarding verse 4.

In *Matthew Henry's Commentary* it states regarding verse 4: "When men are not content with the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, but will **frame notions** of their own and impose them, ..."

In *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures*, we read in verse 4 under the Greek words: "but being **diseased** about seekings and word fights, ..." The Greek word written over "being diseased" is *noseō* (write Greek word here) in 1 Tim. 6:4.

In *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary Of Old and New Testament Words* it states on page 172, Subheading, "Disease, Diseased (Nouns): #3. *nosos* is the Greek Word in question. Akin to Lat. *nocere*, "to injure" (Eng., "nosology"), is the regular word for "disease, sickness," Matt. 4:23; 8:17; 9:35; 10:1, RV, "disease," KJV, "sickness"; in Matt. 4:24; Mark 1:34; Luke 4:40; 6:17; 9:1; Acts 19:12 KJV and RV render it "diseases." In Luke 7:21, KJV has "infirmities." The most authentic mss. omit the word in Mark 3:15. See Sickness

#4. *nosēma*, an alternative form of No. 3, is found in some mss. in John 5:4 Cf. ***noseō*, to dote about, have a diseased craving for," 1 Tim. 6:4.**

#### **New World Translation-Greek:**

Information taken from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_World\\_Translation\\_of\\_the\\_Holy\\_Scriptures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_World_Translation_of_the_Holy_Scriptures)

The Greek master text by the Cambridge University scholars B. F. Westcott and F.J.A. Hort (1881) was used as the basis for translating the New Testament into English. The committee also referred to the *Novum Testamentum Graece* (18th edition, 1948) and to other works including the Nestle-Aland text (1979). Nestle-Aland: Today the designation *Novum Testamentum Graece* normally refers to the **Nestle-Aland** editions. The first edition published by Eberhard Nestle in 1898 combined the readings of the editions of Tischendorf, Westcott and Hort and Weymouth, placing the majority reading of these in the text and the third reading in the apparatus. In 1901, he replaced the Weymouth New Testament with Bernard Weiss's text. Additional works consulted in preparing the *New World Translation* include the Johann Jakob Griesbach's Greek text, the Emphatic Diaglott.

The Emphatic Diaglott

<http://www.heraldmag.org/olb/bsl/Library/BIBLES/diaglott/Diaglott.pdf>

1 Timothy 6:4 he is puffed up, nothing being versed in, but **being sick** about questions and strifes of words, ...

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English Translation of the Bible Mace New Testament 1729 Daniel Mace

<http://lookhigher.net/englishbibles/englishtranslationofthebible/1timothy/6.html>

1Ti 6:4 he is full of pride and ignorance, touch'd with a **spirit of chicanery** and wrangling, productive of envy, contention, calumny, mischievous opinions,

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The Great Bible, Cranmer Bible, 1540 Miles Coverdale

<http://lookhigher.net/englishbibles/thegreatbible/1timothy/6.html>

1Ti 6:4 he is pufte vp, and knoweth nothyng: but **wasteth hys Braynes** about questions and stryfe, of wordes, ...

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<http://chatbible.com/1-timothy/6-4.asp>, <http://lexiconcordance.com/greek/3552.html>

### [American Standard Version \(ASV 1901\)](#)

he is puffed up, knowing nothing, but **doting** about questionings and disputes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

### [King James Version \(KJV 1769\)](#)

He is proud, knowing nothing, but **doting** about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

### [Original King James Bible \(AV 1611\)](#)

He is proud, knowing nothing, but **doting** about questions, and strifes of wordes, whereof commeth enuie, strife, railings, euill surmisings,

### [John Etheridge Peshitta-Aramaic NT \(1849\)](#)

this (is one) who extolleth himself while knowing nothing, but is **infirm** with disputation and questioning of words, from which are envy, and contention, and evil speaking, and supposition in the evil mind,

### [James Murdock Peshitta-Aramaic NT \(1852\)](#)

he is one that exalteth himself, while he knoweth nothing; and he **languisheth** in the search and inquiry about words, from which come envy, and contention, and railing, and evil surmising,

### [Westcott & Hort Original Greek New Testament \(1885/1901\)](#)

τετύφωται, μηδὲν ἐπιστάμενος, ἀλλὰ νοσῶν περὶ ζητήσεις καὶ λογομαχίας, ἐξ ὧν γίνεται φθόνος, ἔρις, βλασφημίαι, ὑπόνοιαι πονηραί,

### [W&H Greek New Testament \(Literal English, 2009\)](#)

it-had-come-to-be-en-vapored, to-lest-moreover-one standing-upon, other ailing-unto about to-seeking and to-forthee-battlings-unto out of-which it-becometh an-envying, a-wrangling, harmful-declarings-unto, considerings-under-unto en-necessitated,

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## Greek Dictionary (Lexicon-Concordance)

### Key Word Studies (Translations-Definitions-Meanings)

<http://lexiconcordance.com/greek/355.html#52>

νοσέω noseo {nos-eh'-o}

#### —Greek Word Study (Transliteration-Pronunciation Etymology & Grammar)

- 1) to be sick
- 2) metaph. of any ailment of the mind
  - 2a) to be taken with such an interest in a thing as amounts to a disease, to have a morbid fondness for

#### —Thayer's (New Testament Greek-English Lexicon)

to **be sick**, that is, (by implication of a diseased appetite) to **hanker** after (figuratively to **harp** upon):—dote.

#### —Strong's (Greek Dictionary of the New Testament)

**AV** - dote 1; 1  
**doting**

1 Timothy [6:4](#).