

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Why Contend?

Jude 4-7

I. WARNING OF APOSTASY.

- A. The reason Jude wrote:
 - 1. The community of the saints were being infiltrated by certain persons.
 - a. In fact, they were already among them.
 - b. “Secretly slipped in” [NIV].
 - c. The church has always battled such:
 - i. Galatians 2:4
 - ii. 2 Peter 2:1
- B. “Long before marked out for this condemnation.”
 - 1. The word for “marked out” was used for a public notice warning certain people they would not be allowed inside the city under penalty of death.
 - a. “Wanted” posters – similar to the Old West days.
 - 2. How were they marked out?
 - a. By the prophets. Deuteronomy 18:18-19
 - b. Jesus warned the apostles:
 - i. Matthew 7:15
 - ii. Matthew 24:24
 - c. Paul warned the early church – Acts 20:29-30.
- D. What kind of people were they?
 - 1. Ungodly person – in two ways:
 - a. “Turn the grace of God into licentiousness.”
 - i. Not only suggested that grace condoned immorality but that by being immoral they fulfilled the purpose of God.
 - ii. Romans 6:1, “*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?*”
 - b. “Deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” Luke 12:9
 - i. To deny any of the characteristics that show His Divinity – His miracles, teachings, resurrection – is to deny Him.
 - 2. This attitude is still prevalent in the church today!

II. HISTORICAL EXAMPLES OF APOSTASY.

- A. The Nation of Israel. Vs. 5
 - 1. Unbelief – serpents (Num. 21), golden calf (Ex. 32), plague (Num. 11).
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 10:6-11
- B. Fallen Angels. Vs. 6
 - 1. Rebellion.
 - 2. We know angels sinned. 2 Peter 2:4
- C. Sodom and Gomorrah. Vs. 7
 - 1. Sexual immorality – specifically homosexuality.
 - 2. Genesis 19
 - 3. Romans 1:26-28

4. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
 5. Whether we legally accept it or not, whether modern day “Christianity” accepts it or not, whether we are to be called discriminators or not, God has always condemned it!
- D. Cain. Vs. 11
1. Religious perversion – worship our way, convenience. Genesis 4
 2. Matthew 15:9
- E. Balaam. Vs. 11
1. Financial greed. Numbers 22-24
 2. 1 Timothy 6:8-10
- F. Korah. Vs. 11
1. Rejection of divine authority. Numbers 16
 2. John 12:47-48

III. THE NEED FOR REMINDERS.

- A. Some of us don't like reminders of things.
1. Especially things that we tend to be involved in.
 2. Peter recognized the need. 2 Peter 1:12-14
 3. We probably need classes in OT history so as to be reminded.
- B. The case of Israel:
1. A good example of the fact that God may deliver a people out of slavery and then destroy them when they do not believe.
 - a. Hebrews 4:1-2
 - b. It isn't enough to hear His invitation – we have to continue to follow it.
 2. God will not save those who stubbornly resist or who deliberately rebel.
 - a. To engage in a life of immorality and to deny Jesus is to walk contrary to all we have learned.
 - b. Hebrews 3:12. If we believe, we believe all...
 3. James 4:17, *“Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not to it, to him it is sin.”*