

CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

Jude 3-4

INTRODUCTION.

A. Throughout history false teachers have perverted the truth.

1. The serpent (Satan) in the Garden of Eden was the first but Certainly not the last.
 - a. Moses had to deal with false prophets in Egypt.
 - b. Jeremiah hurled a stinging rebuke at the false teachers of Israel and Judah (Jer 14:14).
 - c. Paul prophesied that some among the leaders of the church would fall away into error (Ac 20:29-30).
 - d. And the Spirit explicitly taught that false teachers and prophets would be around in the last days (1Ti 4:1-2).
2. The world is still in the throws of false teaching, and it will be that way until they are thrown into the Lake of Fire at the judgment.

B. The Letter of Jude is especially concerned with false teachers.

1. The key word is "apostasy." The main body of the letter is an impassioned attack on those who pervert God's truths, accompanied by examples of God's vengeance on such people.
2. He returns again and again to the subject to express his burning hatred of their perversion of the doctrine of the Christ.

C. Jude discloses the way of dealing with error. It is "Be loyal to the Truth," the theme of the letter.

I. INTRODUCTION (vss 1-4).

A. The Person—Jude, brother of the Lord (Mt 13:55), is the writer of the letter.

B. The People

1. Called – Always a call accepted and obeyed.
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 2:14
 - b. Galatians 1:6
2. Beloved – reconciled through Christ, Romans 5:8.
3. Kept - in the love of God, and by His power, pointing to His return, 1 Peter 1:5.

C. The Purpose—vs 3

1. "Contend earnestly" denotes the extreme efforts which are to characterize the faithful in defense of the truth, no matter how great the enemy may be. Our contending for the truth must be worthy of the One whose truths we are defending.
2. "For the faith" - the sum of all that Christians are to believe and obey, Acts 6:7.
 - a. The body of Truth about Christ presented to believers in order that we might maintain a close communion with God.
3. "Which was once for all delivered" to the saints.
 - a. The faith was a permanent deposit. It will never be superseded, emended, or modified.
 - b. It is perfect, thoroughly equipped, complete, 2 Tim. 3:16.
 - c. *There is no other gospel!*

D. The Immediate Occasion—vs 4

1. Ungodly men - Men without reverence. No respect.
2. Turning the grace of God (salvation) into licentiousness, Rom. 6:1; Gal. 5:13.
3. Turning their freedom into an opportunity for the fleshly desires.
4. They denied the deity of Christ.
5. This same type of false teacher exists today.

II. JUDE'S WARNINGS CONCERNING THEIR JUDGMENT AND CHARACTER.

A. Jude provides three warning examples as evidence that such heretics would not escape the vengeance of God.

1. The unfaithful Israelites in the wilderness (vs 5; 1 Cor. 10:1-11). All of this is summed up under the basic sin of unbelief. They engaged in formalities, complied with outward ritualism, but were still unwilling to adopt righteousness as a way of life. If half a million men were executed by God for unbelief, these false teachers will not escape!
2. The angels which sinned (vs 6). If angels do not escape the vengeance of God, neither will these false teachers.
3. The cities of the Plain (vs 7). These cities were guilty of the most horrid sins of the flesh: bestiality, homosexuality, human sacrifice, etc. Their punishment stands as a reminder of what will happen to all ungodliness.
4. In vs 10 these persons have given themselves over to their "instincts," and fleshly appetites.
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:1-5
 - b. So many today let their feelings flourish in uncontrollable experiences until the Scripture is disregarded. The result of it all - they are destroyed.

B. Three instances of individual wickedness (vs 11).

1. Cain, an example of disobedience, Gen. 4; 1 Jn. 3:12.
 - a. An innovator who hated those who rejected their ideas.
2. Balaam, an example of greed, Nu 22:5-7.
 - a. Disregarded the Word of God for sordid gain.
3. Korah, an example of rebellion against God's appointed authority, Num. 16:1-35.

C. An analysis of the wicked men against whom Jude warns (12-16).

1. *"Hidden reefs in your love feasts."* Unnoticed, dissension makers.
2. *"Clouds without water carried along by wind."* Promises, but no results.
3. *"Autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted."* No fruit.
4. *"Wild waves of the sea casting up their own shame like foam,"* Isa 57:20; Eph. 4:14.
5. *"Wandering [meteorites] stars."* Flash, but then darkness.
6. They are recognized by the prophesy of Enoch (vss 14-16). We know little about Enoch's prophesy, but he knew the fate of ungodly men!

III. JUDE'S EXHORTATION TO THE FAITHFUL.

A. Reminder That Ungodly Men Were to be Expected (17-19); 1 Tim. 4:11-3.

B. Encouragement to Build on the Most Holy Faith (20-21).

1. Firm in the faith (vs 20)
 - a. It is holy - pure, not defiled.
 - b. The faith that was *"once delivered"* [God's Word!]- Jude 3.
 - c. No false doctrine.
2. Pray in the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Keep the lines of communication to heaven open.
 - b. 1 Thess. 5:17, "pray without *ceasing*."
 - i. Greek word expresses devotion to God and a Godward look.
 - c. God does answer prayers.
3. Keep yourself in the Love of God (vs 21).
 - a. How? By conforming our lives to His will.
 - b. Jn 14:9-10; Jn. 15:4 - *abide*...
4. *"Waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord..."* (21)
 - a. Keep on hoping!
 - b. If man loses hope, he loses the assurance of God's judgment, of eternal life, and faith (Titus 2:13).

C. How are we to treat those caught up in false teaching?

1. To the doubting—have mercy (22). Demonstrate the kindness and love of Christ to those doubting. Assist them in finding faith. There are many in the world who are fed up with "religion" and they want to drink from the pure water of life. Must reach them with mercy.
2. To others—use firmness (23). There are those who require a shock to their consciences. Rebuke their teaching flatly. Declare their error in no uncertain terms, for they are on the brink of Hell.
3. To still others—mercy and fear. Declare God's truth, but do not become involved with their sin (Gal 6:1.)

CLOSING: (24-25)

- A. Fearlessly, Jude has rebuked the false teachers threatening the peace and holiness of the church.
- B. Now, with tenderness and faith, he commits his readers to the source of all good, to their Protector, Defender, and Lord.
- C. May we through equal faithfulness make Him ours as well.