

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 12- The Characteristics of the Heretics **Jude 12-13**

129 The Characteristics of the Heretics- Part 7

WOSM Monday 05/05/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse ‘Journey’ through the Epistle of Jude and today we are continuing to examine what Jude taught about “The Characteristics of the Heretics”. So, let’s read verses 12 & 13 of Jude again together:

12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;

13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

Now we have been exploring the first of five characteristics of the heretics for quite some time now and several people have called wanting to know why I spend so much time with all these details. Here’s why. In the words of Jonathan Edwards, I want to “*treat the Scripture fairly*” here. You see, my Christian brothers and sisters, I believe that the Words that I read out of the Bible are the most unique Words in all the world. These are the only Words on earth that are inspired, infallible, and inerrant. God Almighty literally breathed these Words out- He exhaled them and so to understand these Words so that our relationship with Jesus is both real and powerful is the most noble goal of any man. So, I want to make sure that I deal with these Words rightly and I want to accurately portray them to you in the very same way that God wrote them. So please pray for me that I will be faithful and that all that is said and done through these broadcasts will bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ.

You see, beloved, we have a terrible tendency in our modern microwave culture of just hitting the high points of Scripture and then

moving on. But that is a tragic mistake when dealing with the Bible. I am purposefully slowing this study down so that we may not just eat these words- but that we may chew them and savor them and digest them and enjoy them and be changed by them so that God's precious Word may have the impact on our lives that it is designed to have. And you simply cannot do that quickly.

People tell me all the time that they just don't have the time to spend hours in God's Word. I reply to them that that is simply not true. Everybody on earth has the same amount of time. We all have 24 hours every day- always have and always will. But we very poorly allocate our time, and we very poorly manage our time and that is why we are always in such a hurry.

But even though that is true- we still do what we value. We spend time with what we value. If you value making money- you will spend time in that endeavor. If you value your family- you will spend time with your family. If you value football or your geraniums or your boat or your kitchen or the gym- you will spend time there.

And if you value God- you will spend time with Him. You will not pray if and when you *find* the time- no, if you value prayer- you will *make* time for prayer. If prayer is valuable to you- you will push other things out of the way. It is true that prayer- real prayer; fervent and earnest prayer takes time. It demands much time. God designed it that way on purpose- so we would have to value it in order to do it properly. So, it is a requirement that if you are going to pray as God wants you to pray that you will have to sacrifice something that you enjoy; something that you like; something that isn't sinful; something that is good in order to pray the way God wants you to pray. That is the entire definition of what it means to pick up your cross daily and deny yourself and follow Jesus Christ.

God will allow you to make the choice between TV and prayer; between your murder mystery and prayer; between your golf match and prayer; between gardening and prayer. And make no mistake about it- whatever you choose- that is what you value.

The same thing is true with the Study of God's Holy Word. If you value the Bible- if the inspired Words of Scripture hold great value to you- then you will push whatever you need to push out of the way, and you will *make* the time—however long that is—you will make the time to read it and study it and spend time in it- so that you may understand

it. If you don't- it is not because God's Word isn't important- it is because God's Word isn't important to you.

And while I am offending some by saying these things- I might as well go ahead and offend everybody. We all need to know that reading a book *about* the Bible is not the same thing as reading and studying the Bible itself. Reading the latest book from your favorite Christian author is okay, I guess, but it is a sorry substitute for reading and knowing and loving and learning inspired Words that came from the Mind and Heart of the Creator of the Universe.

May I be plain? It is sinful for anyone who has been saved for any length of time to not know the Word of God. It is insulting to God for His people to value TV or the Internet or Video Games or sports more than they value what He said.

The reason that the modern snake oil salesmen can fool people so easily today is precisely because spiritual discernment is at an all time low in the American Church. And the reason that spiritual discernment is not exercised by God people is because they don't know the Book.

Beloved, we have no excuse. 500 years ago, if you were going to read the Bible- you had to first learn how to read, write and speak fluent Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Latin, or else someone who could had to read it for you. But God dealt with people to literally risk their lives to translate the Bible into English so that we could all read God's glorious Word for ourselves and now we say that we are too busy watching football or the hallmark channel to read it?

We need to remember the sacrifice that people like John Wycliffe and John Huss made so that we could have a Bible printed in English. These men and many others were put on trial and were murdered by the Roman Church because they dared to translate the Bible into English.

When Harvard University first began, it was a requirement that every single student spend two hours in prayer and Bible Study before their first class began and class started then at 7:00 a.m. So, Harvard students were up at 5:00 am reading the Bible and praying before class- and that was just the Business School. Can you imagine thousands of business students who graduated and went on to build the greatest economy the world has ever seen were spending two hours every morning in prayer and Bible Study? No wonder God blessed this nation.

Oxford and Yale and Princeton and all of the major universities in the Western world were not created to produce God hating atheists that believe that man came from one celled amebas. No, these prestigious universities were created for the sole purpose of assisting the comprehension and the understanding of God's Word- because that was what the people valued back then. I can only pray that it will once again become valuable to us today.

Now there you go again, Brother Blair- blowing something up way beyond proportion. Really. Go past any Church on the Coast on prayer meeting night and count the cars. Then go by on Sunday and count the cars. If you want to know how popular the preacher is to the people- count the cars on Sunday morning. If you want to know how popular the singer or the visiting evangelist is- count the cars on that night. But if you want to know how popular Jesus is- then count the cars on prayer meeting night. Count the cars on Bible Study night. And until more cars show up for prayer and Bible Study than to hear some singer- we must all know that we are not in revival.

You see, beloved, lost people want to be entertained. They will come to your Church to hear the singer; they will come to your Church to see the movie star or the sports figure or the comedian or even the politician. Sinners who are not born again will come for your hot dogs and your games and your picnics.

But save people should come for prayer. Saved people should come for Bible Study. Save people should come to spend time fasting and weeping between the porch and the altar and grabbing the horns of the altar and seeking God's Face.

Do you really think that we are honoring the sacrifice of the people who died to give us the Bible in English by letting the Bible go unread today? Do you think that we will ever become spiritual by not spending time with God?

If you were the devil, wouldn't you make Sunday the biggest sports day? I mean if you were the devil wouldn't you encourage pastors to close the doors of the Church so that all the lukewarm men could watch the Super Bowl instead of being in the House of God with their families? Surely Paul said something about that somewhere in the Bible- didn't he? I mean surely somewhere Peter taught something like that- didn't he? Surely John mentioned that something like that would bring glory to Jesus Christ didn't he?

Beloved, I really wonder- what ever happened to the concept of “The Lords’ Day”? Whatever happened to the Biblical teaching that was made famous by the Puritans that God’s people are not to just “show up” on Sunday mornings for a couple of hours but we are to take the entire day as a time to hear God’s Word preached; we are to take a whole day every week to spend time in prayer and meditation; we are to set aside an entire day to fellowship about the things of God and study God’s holy Book. Whatever happened to us?

I remember as a child when stores closed on Sunday so their employees could go to Church. And we need to know that every time that Christians go shopping on Sunday—we are contributing to keeping those people out of Church.

I remember when nothing of any importance was on television on Sunday because nobody was watching it. Boy, we’ve come a long way. I mean people start watching the clocks right about noon- praying that the preacher will shut up so that they won’t miss the kickoff. This is what Jesus died for?

If you were the devil, wouldn’t you get people so busy that they wouldn’t have time to pray? If you were the devil, wouldn’t you get people chasing money so hard to pay for all their new and pretty things so that they had no time to study God’s Word? If you were the devil wouldn’t you bless people right into hell and if you couldn’t get them backslid into sin- wouldn’t you try to get them to front slide into so much prosperity and so much stuff that it would suffocate their souls?

If you were the devil wouldn’t you do these things? Well, he has. And we are all the poorer because of it. Because we don’t pray- we don’t hear. Because we don’t study God’s Word we don’t know; because we don’t spend time with God- we spend time with other things, and we are now paying the price of our folly.

And we need to recognize that it is the devil’s business to rob us of prayer and Bible Study times. When God’s Word speaks of the devil robbing God’s people- God is not talking about the devil keeping us from a new job or a new house or a raise on our job or a new wife or more stuff and more possessions and more money. No, God is talking about the devil robbing us of the things that are truly valuable- time with Him; time with God’s Word; time with each other; the glory of being able to renew our minds by stealing away from the mad rush of this

Babylonian system and ascend into the high and lofty mountain of God and to sit and listen to what He says. In **Psalms 91:1** King David said:

Psalms 91:1

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalms 24:3-10

3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD ? And who may stand in His holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This is the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face—even Jacob. Selah.

7 Lift up your heads, O gates, And be lifted up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in!

8 Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O gates, And lift *them* up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in!

10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah.

I tell you- to sit and listen to what God says, to sit and bask in His Glory and To sit and hear His Heartbeat and to know Him and to find Him and to Love Him and to Hold Him and to understand Him and to obey Him and to obtain Him is the cry of every believers heart. And we have fallen from that objective, and we have been sucked into a system that is cruel and hard and frustrating and not of God. And we need to break out of that system, and we need to repent, and we need to return to Biblical Christianity, and we need to change the way we think and the way we speak and the way we live and the way we conduct ourselves so that we may bring honor and glory and to the Name of Jesus Christ and so that we may see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. This is why we need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Well, I've got to

stop right here. But please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our Journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.