

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

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

Chapter 3- The Common Salvation **Jude 3**

15. The Common Salvation- Part 7

WOSM Friday 11/23/07; WPAS Friday 05/09/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse journey through the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to continue in our new section of study and look again at what Jude taught about, "The Common Salvation" so let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 3** again together:

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Now we have been studying just what Jude meant by using the term, "**common salvation**" here in verse 3 and to do that- we are looking at the four characteristics of the first Church that we found in **The Acts 2:42**:

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

So, we can see that based upon this verse- what made the Church of Jesus Christ to be "common" or alike was that four characteristics were the same in all of the Churches:

1. They continued steadfastly in the Apostles Doctrine
2. Fellowship
3. Breaking of Bread
4. Prayers

And on the last broadcast- we were looking at the fourth characteristic that made the Church to be common or alike and today I want to

continue to examine this powerful attribute- prayer- and we were examining how Jesus taught us to pray by looking at **Matthew 6:9**- where Jesus told us that we are to pray:

Hallowed be Your Name.

Now last time we found out that one of the best examples of hallowing God's name is given to us in **Isaiah 6:1-8**. So, on the last broadcast- we were studying Isaiah's words in order to get a good understanding of what it means to hallow God- so let's read that passage together:

1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.

7 He touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

As you may remember last time- we were looking at verse 1- so let's read that verse again:

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

So, on the last broadcast- I was showing you that when Isaiah saw the Lord- He was high and lifted up and He was seated on His throne. I

tell you that Jesus is either your Lord and your Master and your King and your God, or else you are yet in your sins. Jesus is either Lord of all or He is not Lord at all. We have absolutely no choice in this matter. Saved people bow before God. Saved people see God high and lifted up. Christ sits in majesty on the throne of every saved soul.

But Isaiah saw yet more about God in **Isaiah 6:2**, Isaiah said:

Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

If you have a correct view of God in prayer, when you comprehend the hallowedness of God- you see and understand and comprehend that angels minister to God. We have to notice here that all attention is focused on God. No attention at all is being given to Isaiah, but the focus of all the seraphims is Almighty God.

But Isaiah's vision of God was still not over. In verse 3, he writes:

And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

The seraphim cry aloud about the holiness of God. We should cry aloud about the holiness of God. When Hebrews repeated things three times, it meant that whatever they repeated three times was extremely important and should become established. The seraphims were not just saying that God was holy- they were saying, **"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts"**.

The seraphim were also correctly telling us that holy is the Father; holy is the Son; and holy is the Spirit. Some people here on earth may be confused about the Triunity of God, but the seraphim were very clear about it, and they praised the one God who is eternally manifested in three parts.

The next statement that came out of the seraphim's mouth was astounding. They cried out, **"The whole earth is full of His Glory"**.

Beloved, there is much confusion about the glory of God filling the earth today. God did not empower the Church to cause America to become a Christian theocracy. God did not empower the Church so that we could rise up as a huge voting block. God did not commission the Church so that we could force men to bow before our economic and political might. God empowered us; he filled us; He infused us; He

inspired us; He enabled us; He commissioned us so that we could preach the Gospel to every creature and then to teach those who are saved how to live for God in this world as children of Light.

God's glory is not going to fill the earth because we control the White House or the Supreme Court or that we make abortion illegal, or force television stations to produce more Christian entertainment. Those things are fine and good and would benefit us all greatly- but if a man or a nation achieved every one of those things and was still lost- it would all be worthless.

God's glory is going to cover the earth when the man that God created out of the earth is totally submitted to Christ.

The Bible says in **1 Corinthians 10:26:**

FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.

Everything that God made is in perfect obedience to God- except man. Every waterfall flows to the glory of God. Every star shines to honor its Creator. Every cricket chirps and every frog that croaks and every bird that flies and every fish that swims does so at God's express command and to honor Him. But when man sinned against God in the Garden, he fell and the fall of man was great and today, man robs God of His Glory; man steals praise from His Creator; man sits in his own throne and worships himself.

Beloved, any doctrine; any teaching; any sermon; any song; and any prayer that robs God of His Glory and that places Man at the center or that elevates Man at Christ's expense or that causes us to see God in an unbiblical or unscriptural way is not of God and is the enemy of the Cross and should be rejected by the Church.

So if we are to have the common Salvation that Jude spoke about- prayer must be a vital attribute and not just any prayer- but prayer that follows the pattern that Jesus gave us.

I encourage you today to take the time to just rest on this part of the pattern that Jesus gave to us. Just sit on this for a while, beloved and think about how good and how holy and how righteous and how powerful God is and how worthy God is of our worship and our love and our devotion and our obedience.

Now I want to pause here and ask you a question. Have you noticed that in the pattern of prayer that Jesus gave us- have you noticed that we have not even gotten to place where we can ask God for

anything? Have you noticed that if we pray as Jesus taught- that much time will have gone by if we focus on God and His Glory and yet we have not even mentioned anything about our needs? Why is that?

I want to say something about this. I believe that we are all way too eager to tell God what we want Him to do for us and we are not nearly as eager about listening to what God wants us to do for Him. We want God to hear what we have to say- but we are not nearly so interested in listening to what He wants to say to us- and I think that is a mistake.

Prayer is not about us talking. Prayer is a conversation between Man and God. So by definition, beloved- Prayer is about us listening to God as much as we talk to God.

As I told you before- many times people are in a great hurry when they pray and you just simply cannot pray the way that Jesus teaches here in a hurry. Now the world tells us that we are all in a hurry today- and that we don't have time to pray- but I don't buy that for a minute.

I don't really think that we are nearly as busy today as we are unorganized and unprioritized- but I don't know if we are even as busy as generations that came before us.

People had to walk to work back then; women did laundry at the river and had to cut wood before they could cook on the stove. And even though everything they did took more time than it takes us- they so valued prayer that they didn't pray if they had the time- they made time to pray- and think we should value prayer like that today and if we did- we would pray more.

Now to be sure- for us to find the time to pray like Jesus taught us to pray will cost us something. Something will have to give. If we are going to dedicate time for prayer- we may have to sacrifice our television time; we may have to give up our movie night; we may have to quit gardening or stop boating; or give up some other recreation or God forbid- we might not be able to follow our favorite sporting team.

Now before any of you get angry- I am not saying that you have to give up any of these things. But what I am saying is that if you are doing all of these nonessential things and then say that you don't have time to pray- you're just not telling the truth. We have the time, beloved- we just need to value prayer enough to set aside time to seek God's Face so that we may hallow God's Name.

Rest assured brothers and sisters, that if we follow the pattern that Jesus gave us for prayer- it will demand time. It will cost us something.

And the deciding factor of whether or not we are willing to dedicate the time that this kind of praying demands is not whether we have the time to pray- because we all have the time- no, the deciding factor will be how valuable prayer is to us.

If prayer like Jesus taught is valuable- we will pray. If prayer is not valuable- then we will engage in every activity and pleasure under the sun except prayer. But I want to remind all of us that Jude wanted to write about the common salvation- but he couldn't. The enemy had moved into the church to such a degree – that Biblical Christianity- the common salvation was already in jeopardy- that is why Jude wrote this Epistle. Jude wrote this letter so that we would earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints- and part of that falling away; part of losing the common salvation was that people didn't pray the way that Jesus said to pray.

May we all repent and may we all make prayer to be a high priority again in the House of God. 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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