

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**
134 The Characteristics of the Heretics- Part 12

WOSM Monday 05/12/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the Book of Jude and we are now at the point where we are going to examine the characteristics of the heretics. So, let's read verses 12 & 13 of Jude again together:

Jude 12&13

12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

Now in these two verses- Jude gives us five characteristics of the heretics which clearly identify them and today we are continuing to examine the second of the five characteristics of the heretics and we are looking at the last part of the second characteristic. So, let's read the inspired words that Jude wrote to us:

... clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; ...

Notice that the Holy Ghost inspired Jude to say that the heretics are "**carried about of winds**". They are carried about *by* the winds; they are moved and *transported* by the winds; they are *supported* by these winds.

Now just what are these "winds" which transported or carry the heretics? To find out what Jude meant here- let us read what God inspired Paul to write in **Ephesians 4:11-16**:

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

This familiar passage is showing us the very purpose of ministry. Ministry in the Church is to do two things:

1. Perfect or equip or mature the saints so that these equipped saints and mature Christians and perfected believers may get busy in their work of service to the Church and to the world
2. Edify or build up the Body of Jesus Christ

Now this perfecting and this building up- this maturing and this edifying is done *in* the Word of God; *by* the Word of God; *through* the Word of God; and *with* the Word of God.

As the ministry of the Church is obedient to the Scriptural commands and as they are anointed by the power of the Holy Ghost- faithful ministers of the Gospel will teach and preach and exhort and rebuke and encourage and show and prove and manifest the inspired Word of God so that those who follow them may be edified and built

up and matured so that they will be prepared to minister and to show Jesus Christ to the world.

This ministry is needed and will be in effect until verse 13 is accomplished:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Now how will we know when verse 13 is accomplished? People will come into the unity of the one single Christian Faith and the correct and Biblical knowledge of the Son of God unto a fully equipped man, who is molded and shaped and formed into the very image and likeness of Jesus Christ when verse 14 is true in their lives:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

This verse is exactly what Jude was talking about in verse 12 of **Jude**. Jude says that the heretics are like clouds without water carried about of *winds*. Paul, anointed by the very same Holy Ghost that Jude was, says here is **Ephesians** that little immature children are tossed to and fro with every *wind* of Doctrine.

So, we can see that with the Word and by the Word that the “winds” that the heretics are carried about of- is their false and foolish Doctrines.

And the purpose; the responsibility; and the duty of godly and faithful ministry is to prepare the saints so that they will not be deceived by the heretics and their “winds” of false doctrine. But just how will ministry prepare the saints? Just exactly how will faithful and godly ministry edify the believers so that they will not be deceived? The first part of verse 15 tells us:

But speaking the truth in love ...

There is only one location where holy, Divine, inerrant, infallible, correct, unchangeable, immutable, and trustworthy Truth can be found and that is in the pages of Holy Scripture.

So, if we are to obey the commands of both Jude and Paul; if we are to faithfully teach and faithfully preach; and faithfully equip and edify and mature and exhort and prepare believers to the point where they will be strong enough to ward off the winds of false doctrine that the heretics will bring into the Church – we will do so by the Word of God and by the Word of God alone.

That is why a Biblical Church; a Christian Church; a faithful servant Church will provide the members with Sound teaching and Biblical exposition and Scriptural training and will have Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings scheduled and in progress all during the week.

You show me a Church that does not faithfully and consistently teach the Holy Scriptures line upon line and precept upon precept on an ongoing basis and I will show you a Church that does not prepare the sheep to withstand the winds of false Doctrine that heretics will bring.

That is a Church that is weak and childish, and which is unable to bring its members into full maturity in Jesus Christ.

A Church like that may be big or small but when they are not equipping the believers with the Word- they have absolutely no idea where they are going and why they are even in existence. This kind of Church is an accident waiting to happen.

They may well be saved; they may well be sincere, and they may well be trying with all their heart to serve God- but because of their lack of obedience to this fundamental command of ministry; because of their rebellion or their lack of understanding about the purpose of ministry- the leaders of this kind of Church are not equipping the saints and the result is that the sheep of God are nothing more than sitting ducks for the next wind of false doctrine to blow in and hurt the sheep. And be sure that that wind will blow. That next wind is just around the corner. And it is coming to your Church.

Beloved, what I have just described to you is not the rare exception to the rule. What I have just described to you is the overwhelming majority of our Churches today.

Nice, sincere, people who love the Lord and are trying to serve Him, but because the ministry of the Church either doesn't know about this or doesn't care- the sheep of God's pasture are nothing more than targets for the next wind of heresy to come their way with smooth sounding words; with fantastic new revelations; with

elaborate prophecies that will curl your hair, with detailed dreams and visions and tales of spiritual journeys and of God speaking to them;- anything but the Bible.

And men of wonderful personalities and clever words and soothing speech and false signs and wonders will come in and deceive them and twist them like a pretzel and fill their hearts and minds with doctrines of devils and incorrect teachings and sensual thoughts and will tear up your Church and will destroy the sheep of God's pasture.

It happens everyday. I get phone calls on a regular basis about the latest wind that blows in and of how cool the wind is; how wonderful the wind is; how exciting the wind is; how new and fresh the wind is and how many people are following the wind- and don't you want this new wind, Brother Blair.

And then I watch that false wind of heresy take people away from Jesus and take them away from Scripture and take them away from Truth and away from Sound Doctrine and away from being faithful and leads them off into stuff that is amazing that intelligent people could follow.

The men who wrote the Bible called them "winds" of false teaching- but others today call them "waves". Some call these winds, "new things" or "fresh revelations" some call them "new perspectives" still others say that they are the latest and greatest pronouncements from self appointed Apostles and Prophets who answer to no one and who have been so off base about so much that they have lost all credibility.

But whatever you call them it is the same thing. Anything but a serious in depth, line upon line precept upon precept study of the Bible is accepted today as long as it is new and as long as it is fresh and as long as it is popular and exciting and as long as it gathers a crowd- people will buy the books and they will get the tapes and they will travel to attend the meetings.

The unsaved world calls these things "fads". I call them "spiritual hobby horses". Jude and Paul called them "winds". But they are all the same. They are temporary and shallow winds of doctrine that blow in and attract shallow and undiscerning sheep and they accumulate many followers very quickly and then they blow out

and leave everybody high and dry and everybody waits till the next one blows in.

These winds are new and fresh and exciting, and they are extremely popular. They are also very addictive and once a person or a group or a church begins to follow these winds- they seldom ever stop. They just go from one wind to the next. Rick Warren, the proponent of one the most famous and successful of these “winds” called “Purpose Driven” says in his book, *The Purpose Driven Church*, on pages 14 & 15 that these things are like surfing. Warren suggests that the Church of Jesus Christ should catch one wave and surf it for a while and then you tread water until the next big wave comes along.¹

In the natural, unstable, immature, bored, unsatisfied, and unfulfilled children go through fads all the time. These children are not being bad- no- they are just weak and immature children. They are not rooted and grounded, and they want to run off and chase the latest fad that comes in through the door.

Most of these childish fads are fairly harmless exercises as these children go through adolescence and puberty and they will grow out of them as they mature.

But every once in a while, there comes through a fad in the natural that is deadly. It is dangerous. It harms weak and immature children emotionally and even physically. Strong, loving parents censor these kinds of fads from their children. Discerning parents turn it off; throw it away; forbid it to come into the house and stop their children from getting involved in it.

And many times, when the loving parents do this- the children then act like the immature children that they are- and they throw fits; they pout ; they cry; they scream; they say that they are going to die; they hold their breath until they turn blue; they fall on the floor; they get mad; they say that they hate their parents and so on.

At this point- weak, selfish, or ungodly parents at give up and give in to the cries of their children and let their children do things that they know in their heart will harm them in this life. These parents are either too weak to stop them or they are too busy with their own problems to care, or they are too selfish to bother with it- and the children get into these hurtful fads and some die; some are maimed; some become basket cases- but all are hurt in some way.

Now the very same thing happens in the spirit; in the Church with the *spiritual* fads or the “winds” of false Doctrine that blow in to deceive the sheep. And this is why we need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. 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.

¹ Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Church* (Zondervan, 1995) pages 14 & 15
