

Contend for the Faith – Jude Series

Apostates Exposed

Text: Jude 1:3-4

Introduction

1. Brief review of previous lesson.
2. Review of Structure/Outline of the Book
 - A. Part 1 – Apostates De Masked (Vs. 1-19)
 - B. Part 2 – Believers Exhorted (Vs. 20-25)
3. This lesson: The heart of Jude’s Epistle (his purpose/aim) and the first exposure of the false teachers.
4. Occasion: Vs. 3a

I. HOW? – Earnestly Contend (Vs. 3b)

- A. ‘exhort’ – Literally means to call alongside of. It means to urge, to encourage, to beseech. It is a word that was used to describe the speeches of leaders who would rouse their listeners to action. It was used of words that sent fearful and hesitant soldiers and sailors courageously into battle. Noun form – Title of Holy Spirit, the Comforter.
- B. ‘contend’ – a very strong word that speaks of an intense struggle. It was used in the ancient world to describe athletic contests (e.g. wrestling). It is translated elsewhere as ‘fight’, ‘conflict’ and ‘strive’. The root word is ‘αγωνιζου’ from which we get our English word ‘agonize’. The noun form of the word is used to describe the agony of Christ in the garden when his sweat became great drops of blood (Luke 22:44).

II. WHAT? – The Faith (Vs. 3c)

- A. An exclusive faith
 1. “the faith” – body of Divine truth. Objective truth as opposed to personal faith. ABSOLUTE TRUTH
 2. Refer Vs. 20 – the most holy faith
 3. Gal 1:23 – *“But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth **the faith** which once he destroyed.”*
- B. A completed faith
 1. “once for all delivered”
 2. Completed Revelation
- C. An entrusted faith
 1. “to the saints”
 2. God’s method of preservation
 3. Example: The Apostle Paul – *“...the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.”* (I. Tim 1:11)

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III. WHOM? – The Apostates (Vs. 4)

A. Their Character (4a)

1. The phrase “crept in unawares” comes from a Greek word meaning to slip in alongside of secretly as if by a side door. The word was used of spies or traitors who would infiltrate an opposing camp.
2. **The warning of Christ:** Matthew 7:15 *“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”*
3. **The warning of the Apostle Paul:** Galatians 2:4-5 *“And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.”*

B. Their Destiny (4b)

1. ‘ordained’ – means to write down beforehand.
2. The word was used of public notices or announcements. They are hell-bound men.

C. Their Lifestyle (4c)

1. Apostasy not only involves false doctrine but also a manner of life.
2. Perverted doctrine = perverted deeds; impure belief = impure behaviour; corrupt precepts = impure practices. Don’t be fooled by the outward façade of righteousness.

3. Ungodly

- a. One of the key words in the Book – Refer Vs. 14-15
- b. The opposite of godliness.
- c. Refers to someone without reverence for God.
- d. Refers to someone who deliberately rebels against God’s law.
- e. Refers to someone who lusts and desires after evil things

4. Lascivious

- a. Here Jude gives specific detail of the nature of their ungodliness.
- b. Lasciviousness = unbridled, unrestrained, lust.
- c. Perversion of the doctrine of God’s grace.
- d. Romans 6:14 *“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”*
- e. Titus 2:11-14

5. Illustration: The Modern CCM Philosophy

Many of the CCM artists worship **A REBEL CHRIST**, which is certainly a false christ. Mark Stuart of Audio Adrenaline says, “Jesus Christ is the biggest rebel to ever walk the face of the earth” (*Pensacola News Journal*, Pensacola, Fla., March 1, 1998, pp. 1, 6E). Sonny of P.O.D. says, “We believe that Jesus was the first rebel; the first punk rocker” (<http://www.shoutweb.com/interviews/pod0700.phtml>).

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Many of the CCM artists worship **A ROCK & ROLL PARTY CHRIST**. In his *Live ... Radically Saved* video Carman says, “Jesus is always cool; He’s got his thing together.” In *Resurrection Rap* Carman portrays Jesus as a street hippie; in *The Standard* he calls Jesus “J.C.”; and in *Addicted to Jesus* he speaks of “Jammin’ with the Lamb.” Petra claims that “God gave rock and roll to you/ Put it in the soul of every one.” In “Party in Heaven” the Daniel Band sang, “The Lamb and I are drinkin’ new wine.” Phil Driscoll says, “God is the King of Soul; He’s the King of all rhythm” (quoted by Tim Fisher, *Battle for Christian Music*, p. 82). Messiah Prophet Band says, “Jesus is the Master of Metal,” and Barren Cross says, “Better than pot, Jesus rocks.” John Fischer described God as puffing on a cigar and swaying to rock music (*CCM Magazine*, July 1984, p. 20), while J. Lee Grady says Jesus enjoys dancing with the angels and “grooving to the sound of Christian R&B pumped out of a boom box” (*Charisma*, July 2000).

The cover of Rapper Jayceon “Game” Taylor’s 2012 album, *Jesus Piece*, features Jesus portrayed as a gang member, complete with a gaudy gold chain and a tattoo on his face. Taylor isn’t a CCM artist. He is a secular rapper, but his philosophy is no different than that of many of the “Christian” rockers and rappers. Taylor is inventing a “Jesus” in his own likeness. He says, “Last year in August I got baptized [at City of Refuge Church in Gardena, California] and so I’ve been going to church, but I still been kinda doing me out here. I still love the strip club and I still smoke and drink. I’m faithful to my family, so I wanted to make an album where you could love God and be of God, but still get it poppin’ in your life” (“Jesus Portrayed as Gang Member,” *Christian Post*, Oct. 24, 2012). Taylor says his new album is intended to encourage those who “love God but are still street and wanna remain themselves.”

D. Their orthodoxy (belief system)

1. Scepticism

- a. Note the word ‘denying’ in the present tense
- b. Today scepticism is viewed as academic and scholarly! E.g. Evolution vs creation.

2. Arianism

- a. Central to the belief system of Apostates is a continual, persistent denial of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.
- b. The Titles of the Christ they deny
 - i. ‘Lord’ (δεσποτης) – means Master. The same word Paul uses in Titus 2:9 where he exhorts servants to be obedient to their own masters. Speaks of his authority.
 - ii. ‘God’ (θεόν) – Rev 4:8 “...Lord God Almighty.” Speaks of his deity.
 - iii. ‘Lord’ (Κύριον) – equivalent to the O.T. word for Jehovah. Again speaks of His deity but also of His high Position.
 - iv. ‘Jesus’ (Ιησου) – Saviour. They deny the complete and perfect sacrifice of Christ.
 - v. ‘Christ’ (Χριστόν) – The anointed Messiah

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Conclusion:

1. Are you in the fight for truth today or have you given up in the battle? Have you become cold and lost your zeal for the truth?
2. Have you been influenced by the spirit of apostasy? Is your life unbridled and ungodly?