

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

Jude 3

INTRODUCTION

- Warnings are an important and necessary part of our lives that help to protect us from danger.
- It is a moral duty to warn others when we see them heading for danger.
- The same is true when it comes to spiritual danger.
- There are many spiritual dangers that we face, and it is important that there are those to sound warnings against them:
- Warning the lost of their sin, the condemnation of God they are under, and the hell that awaits them.
- Warning believers of the dangers of sin and the need to be diligent in our striving against it.
- Preachers particularly must be diligent to fearlessly warn (Ezekiel 3:18; 33:8-9; Matthew 3:7; Acts 20:31; Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:14)
- The Epistle of Jude is a letter of warning to Christians, alerting them of certain ungodly men who had infiltrated churches, denying Christ and promoting the false teachings of antinomianism.

I. THE FAITH HAS A COMMON SALVATION

A. Mankind has a common problem

1. All have sinned by breaking God's laws (Romans 3:23)
2. All are under God's wrath and curse

3. All are condemned to the torments of hellfire forever
- B. God has provided the means for mankind's salvation through Jesus Christ (John 3:16)
1. An atonement for sin
 2. A justifying righteousness (Romans 3:22)
 3. The Holy Spirit, to renew and sanctify
 4. Eternal life (Romans 6:23)
- C. The means of salvation has not changed throughout history (Romans 4)
1. It is not by our good works (Titus 3:5)
 2. It is only by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- D. It is adapted to men of every race and class
- E. The offer of salvation is given freely to all (Mark 16:15; Revelation 22:17)
1. None are excluded except those who by their unbelief and rejection of Christ exclude themselves (Matthew 23:37)

II. THE FAITH HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO THE SAINTS

- A. What is "the faith"?
1. It is not the believer's individual trust in God
 2. It refers to the body of Christian doctrine (Galatians 1:23)
- B. It has been *once* delivered
1. This means "once for all"

2. The doctrine and the canon of Scripture is complete and not to be added to
3. Those who claim to have “new revelation” from God are deceivers
4. "If it's new, it's not true. And if it's true, it's not new."

C. It has been delivered *to the saints*

1. *Saints* means “sanctified/holy/set apart ones” and refers to all Christians
2. The church, and individual Christians, have been entrusted with the precious truths of the gospel
3. It has been *delivered*, not something we manufacture or discover ourselves
4. It is our responsibility to protect and defend what has been delivered to us (1 Timothy 6:20)

III. THE FAITH REQUIRES CONTINUAL STRIVING FOR

A. There is a war engaged between light and darkness

1. The devil's hoards are actively at war against the truth
2. It is a spiritual war using spiritual weapons (Matthew 26:51-52; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4; Ephesians 6:10-18)

B. Christians are required to go to war against error

1. Earnestly contend comes from a Greek word that gives us our word “agonize”
2. Half-hearted or intermittent contending will not do
3. Not violently or aggressively, but lovingly graciously, and firmly (2 Timothy 2:24)

4. Those who refuse to contend for the truth demonstrate they have little regard for it
- C. The extent of our contending:
1. Every truth of Scripture ought to be defended
 2. There is nothing superfluous in the canon.
 3. The abandonment of great doctrines begins with the neglect of lesser doctrines
- D. In order to contend for the faith, we must fully *know* the faith
1. Every Christian must become skilful in the word of righteousness (Hebrews 5:13-14)

CONCLUSION

1. Are you a partaker of the *common salvation* through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?
2. Are the truths of the gospel so precious and dear to us that we are prepared to defend them to the death?
3. Those who are not fighting error are sanctioning it.
4. We can contend for the faith both individually in our dealings with others, as well as corporately by giving our wholehearted support to the church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).
5. God has entrusted the truth to us. Are we being good stewards of it?