

ENEMIES OF THE TRUTH

Jude 4

INTRODUCTION

- There many other accounts of people who kept exotic animals as pets who were killed by their “pets”.
- Today we are looking at wolves of a different sort, and of a much more dangerous kind: spiritual wolves who are intent on devouring God’s flock, and who must not be tolerated.
- Last week we saw that the purpose of Jude’s letter was to exhort his readers to earnestly contend for the faith.
- From verse 4 he then explains the reason for this exhortation: the truth was under attack by false teachers.
- An important aspect of warfare is having a good understanding of one’s enemy.

Note these characteristics of false teachers:

I. THEY DECEIVE CHURCHES WITH LEAVEN

- A. The devil has various tactics in his war against the church.
 1. He attacks openly through persecution
 2. He attacks secretly through infiltration (Acts 20:28-31; Galatians 2:4; Ephesians 4:14; 2 Peter 2:1-2)
 3. “crept in” – “a secret, stealthy, and subtle insinuation of something evil into a society or a situation.” (Barclay)
 4. The tares can be indistinguishable from the wheat (Matthew 13:24-25, 38-39)

II. THEIR DOCTRINE IS CARNAL AND LICENTIOUS

- A. They are ungodly

1. "Evil; sinful; impious; acting contrary to the nature of God; neglecting the fear and worship of God"
 2. They may have a "form" of godliness, but lack its power (2 Timothy 3:5)
 3. True doctrine is according to godliness (1 Timothy 6:3)
 4. "Ungodly" is a key word in Jude's epistle (15,18)
- B. They are antinomians
1. This doctrine holds that the moral law is not binding upon Christians as a rule of life
 2. There are three uses of the moral law
 - a. To give a knowledge of sin
 - b. A restraint against sin
 - c. As a rule by which Christians should live
 3. Antinomians claim that the law has no place in the Christian's life
- C. They misunderstand and pervert God's grace
1. Lasciviousness – "wantonness, absence of moral restraint, indecency" (Mark 7:21-22; Galatians 5:19)
 2. "Because we are saved without works, then works do not matter at all."
 3. Those who are under grace become servants of righteousness (Romans 6)
 4. God's grace teaches to live righteously, not lasciviously (Titus 2:11-12)
- D. Those who are Christ's will have the evidence of a holy life
1. Biblical repentance causes one to leave his sins

2. Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19)
3. Those who keep not God's commandments are liars (1 John 2:1-5)
4. Those who are born of God do not habitually commit sin (1 John 3:3-10)

III. THEY DENY CHRIST'S LORDSHIP

- A. It is not so much a denial in words, but in works (Titus 1:16)
- B. They reject all authority but themselves
 1. They despise civil authorities (Jude 8,11)
 2. The essentially make themselves gods
- C. This rejection of Christ's Lordship is rampant in our day
 1. They teach that one may believe in Jesus as Saviour, but not as Lord, and still be saved
 2. They teach that one may be justified, yet never sanctified
 3. They teach that not all Christians are "disciples"
 4. They slander advocates of holiness as "legalists"
 5. Their chief end is the happiness of man, not the glory of God

IV. THEY ARE DOOMED TO CONDEMNATION IN THE LAKE OF FIRE

- A. They are ordained to condemnation
 1. This does not refer to God eternally foreordaining some to destruction

2. It means the condemnation of apostates has been determined long beforehand
 3. The Old Testament prophets, as well as Christ and the apostles condemned these people (see 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 14-15)
- B. They are presently under God's condemnation (John 3:18)
- C. They are presently in bondage to their sin (2 Peter 2:19)
- D. To prove the certainty of their judgment, Jude gives three examples from history:
1. The unbelievers in Egypt (5)
 2. The angels that sinned (6)
 3. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah (7)
- E. God has no tolerance for those who pervert His truth (Deuteronomy 13; Galatians 1:9; 5:12; 1 Timothy 6:3-5)

CONCLUSION

1. It is the responsibility of pastors to, like Jude, sound clear warnings against those who threaten the Lord's churches.
2. Christians must take particular care as to what books they read and what teachings they listen to.
3. Are you using God's grace as excuse to sin?
4. Who is your Lord? Self or Christ?
5. Do you have the same abhorrence of false teaching and those who promote it as God does? (Psalm 119:128)