

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

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

Chapter 14- A Further Description of the Heretics **Jude 16** 157 A Further Description of the Heretics Part 3

WOSM Thursday 06/12/08

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 to look at what Jude taught about "A Final Description of the Heretics". So, let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 16** again together:

These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their *own* lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of *gaining an advantage*.

Now in this verse- Jude says that the false teachers who creep into the Church to deceive the simple are:

1. Grumblers
2. Those who find fault
3. Those who follow their own lusts
4. Those who speak arrogantly
5. Those who flatter people for the sake of gaining an advantage

Now we have gone over the first two descriptions listed in verse 16, and today, I want to go over the third description that God, the Holy Ghost inspired Jude to write to us concerning the deceivers.

3. Those Who Follow Their Own Lusts.

Now this description of the heretics is a very vivid one. In a self-centered manner, the false teachers are at odds with God because they follow their own lusts. You see, God's Word says that born again believers are not driven by their own carnal lusts- but are led by God's Spirit. **Romans 8:14** says:

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

And the fifth chapter of Galatians gives us special insight into this.
Let's read **Galatians 5:16-26**:

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

The deceivers that Jude was describing here *cannot* walk “by” or “in” the Spirit because they are not saved (verse 4) and so since they *cannot* be led by God’s Spirit- they are left to be driven by their own lusts.

This illustrates the point that anytime we abandon the Truth of God’s Word- we are left with nothing but our own fleshly desires. As I have told you many times in this study of Jude- no one has to be taught how to rebel. We rebel *by nature* because we are selfish and fallen people by nature. But while it is true that no one has to be taught how to rebel- we *do* have to be taught how to obey. Obedience does not come naturally to human beings- rebellion comes naturally- but not

obedience. Obedience is based in love, submission and a changed heart- rebellion is based in the fallen urge that we have to be our own master or our own god. Therefore, obedience and the beauty behind obedience must be taught; it must be learned; it must be put into practice by a heart and mind that loves God- or else it won't happen.

No one has to teach anyone to hate; or to desire vengeance; or to be self willed- we do those things naturally, due to living in a fallen fleshly body. Even those who are saved struggle every day against these impulses- so on a good day, we all have various degrees of success with our flesh and our emotions and our desires and this is due to our new godly nature doing battle with our sinful flesh.

So, the last thing that anyone who is serving God needs- is fuel that will feed the fleshly, carnal, sinful, and self centered desires that do battle against the Spirit of God. Anything that promotes our own self- such as self esteem; self help; self sufficiency; self actualization; self fulfillment- anything that promotes or encourages or feeds the "self" of Man is by default going to hurt or hinder or reduce our ability to please God. Feeding our self is going to increase what we battle against, and it will be counter- productive to walking in the Spirit.

And that is precisely why the Bible teaches that discipline and self control is mandatory if we are to walk above the things of this life. Without the cutting off of the "food" that feeds our carnal desires- we will live perpetually in a defeated life.

So, the Bible promotes things that will feed our spirit- our inner man- and not necessarily our flesh. The Bible is all about strengthening us in the inner man- so that we may please God and bring honor and glory to Him- not building up our fleshly tabernacle so that we can feel better about ourselves. The inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of the living God is a wonderful blueprint of how to serve Christ and how to honor God and how to glorify Jesus Christ and how to become someone who is used by God for God's glory alone. This is what the Reformers meant when they instituted the concept of Soli Deo Gloria- that our duty; our responsibility; our assignment; our charge; our obligation and our honor, privilege, and our joy is bring glory to God in all that we do and say and think and to bring glory to God alone. Saved people seek no glory for themselves- we seek only to bring glory to God.

The Bible is not now and never has been a tool for selfish and self

centered men to take parts of Scripture out of context so that they can justify materialism; greed; and self centeredness and to build up and promote lust and carnal urges that we all have to be little gods.

Since all false teaching is of the devil- all false teaching accomplishes the will of the devil and will never and can never accomplish the Will of God. Now when I say that I am fully aware that many people follow false teaching blindly and without even knowing it- so have I. So, I am not attacking anyone who is deceived by false teaching. But I *am* attacking the false teaching.

Many people are very sincere in what they are doing- and I am not impugning their sincerity, nor am I questioning their intentions. But if we are talking about eternal matters- close doesn't count. This isn't horseshoes and "leaners" won't get you in. The Bible says that unless a man is truly born again by the Spirit of God- then he *cannot* enter into Heaven- that is what Jesus said. So, if a false teaching says that there is another way- then, while we do not have the right or the power to judge another man's heart or even questions his motives- we do have the right and we do have the responsibility to cry out against that false teaching so as to warn those who are following it so that they can reject it and turn to Christ.

We must understand that all false teaching is geared to building up carnal urges and sinful desires like covetousness; and the craving that we all have to become someone important. Heretics manipulate our human tendency to want to be first; to sit in the best seats; to be recognized; to receive praise; to feel superior; to become wealthy; to own lots of things; to control circumstances and to be in charge. These sentiments are all inherent in our fallen natures and came about as the result of the Fall, but they are not productive for godliness, nor do they magnify the Lord.

But these false teachings feel good; they temporarily satisfy a need; they cause us to experience some measure of fulfillment; they validate our efforts; Some heresy is very logical; they are pragmatic; some of them make sense; many of them bring about measurable temporary benefits to us personally; but all of them complete our fallen urge to sit in the throne of God and to be in competition to God.

That is why the false teachings of the deceivers are so popular. That is why they are so easily accepted; and that is why we are so ready to put their teachings into practice. Like I said earlier- you don't have

to teach anyone to do wrong- we will do wrong instinctively.

But if we are to serve God and if we are to serve God on His terms and not our own terms; if we are to follow Christ based upon His standards and not ours; if we are to walk with God in the prescribed manner that He has clearly set forth in Scripture- we will go God's way- *regardless* of the personal cost to us. Remember, it's not about us or is it?

When the defining moment comes- when we realize that the clear accurate teaching of Scripture conflicts with our own personal theology- we are left with only two options. Either we will humbly turn from those false teachings out of our earnest desire to please the Lord and we will embrace the Truth- regardless of how it personally affects us, or we will hold on to that which personally benefits us and ignore the Scriptures.

You see, Christian friends, a teaching is not from God simply because it works. Neither is a teaching from God simply because it benefits us to some degree. That is not the measurement that we use to validate a teaching.

Teaching that comes from the Mind and Heart and very Breath of God is firmly based in Scripture and in Scripture alone and will bring glory to God and to God alone and will prepare men to eternally stand before God blameless. Teaching that comes from the mind and heart and corrupt lusts of fallen man will promote Man to the exclusion of God because it is birthed in human logic, human wisdom and human ingenuity and attempts only to gratify temporary desires now. Jude says that the heretics walk after their own lusts and their teachings promote that very thing.

But contrary to the heretics of Jude's day and the heretics of our own day- the Bible is all about strange sounding things like **“mortifying the deeds of our bodies” (Romans 8:13); “crucifying our flesh” (Galatians 5:24); “denying ourselves and taking up our cross daily” (Luke 9:23); “decreasing so that Christ may increase” (John 3:30); “glorying in our infirmities” (2Corinthians 12:9) “glorying in tribulations (Romans 5:3); “being content with food and raiment” (1Timothy 6:6); “endure chastening” (Hebrews 12:7); “endure afflictions without murmuring” (2Timothy 4:5); “endure hardness” (2Timothy 2:3); “suffer reproach” (2Timothy 4:10); “suffer trouble” (2Timothy 2:9); “suffer persecution” (2Timothy 3:12); “suffer affliction” (Hebrews 11:25); “suffer adversity” (Hebrews 13:3);**

“suffer the word of exhortation” (Hebrews 13:22); “suffer patiently” (1Peter 2:20); “suffer for righteousness sake” (1Peter 3:14); “suffer for well doing” (1Peter 3:17); “suffer as a Christian” (1Peter 4:16); and “suffer according to the will of God” (1Peter 4:19).

What the Bible teaches is not popular today, but it has never been popular with the masses of humans on earth. But only the teachings of Scripture are true and everlasting and everything that disagrees with Scripture is a lie and everyone who teaches contrary to Scripture is a liar.

The Bible teaches what it teaches for a very simple reason- this world is not our home. This earth was never meant to give us total fulfillment; total joy; or total satisfaction- there is another place where we will experience all of that- in Heaven in the very Presence of Almighty God. So, the Bible prepares us for *that* day. What the heretics teach prepares us to have our best life now. But the Bible teaches us to get ready to worship God forever in Heaven with clean hands and a pure heart.

The teachings of the heretics appeal to the prurient nature of greed, arrogance, pride, and self gratification while the Bible appeals to the glory of God. The picture of the fruit of heresy is slick and attractive and prosperous- but the picture of the fruit of Truth is the old, rugged Cross that is despised by the world.

So, if we are to obey Christ and bring glory and honor to God alone- we must be taught and we must be taught rightly and we must be willing to humble ourselves to the authority of Scripture so that we know that we are faithful to what it says.

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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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.