

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**

162 A Further Description of the Heretics Part 8

WOSM Thursday 06/19/08

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 I have been careful to treat the Scriptures fairly in this Study and to accurately and correctly give the true meaning of these verses. What I have told you over the last 161 messages is not my opinion. I have been very careful to *avoid* giving you my opinion. I have researched and given you the meaning of each verse- many times all the way back to the original languages and then carefully and prayerfully brought out a real life example of where they fit and of who they were talking about.

I realize that this has taken more time than many of you are accustomed to spending in the Bible- but there is no other way to teach God's Word if the sense of these holy Words are to impact our lives. It

does no good to skim over verses until you get to something that suites your fancy. That approach that many employ today has cheapened the Word of God and has created an entire generation of shallow men and women who use Scripture to simply justify what they lust after.

The Holy Bible is better than that, beloved. It is true that the Bible was written to enlighten our hearts and minds. The Bible was written to comfort and to encourage the weak and downhearted. The Bible was written to inspire us to love and follow Jesus. All of those things are true- but the Bible was also written to do more than that.

The Bible was also written to humble us. The holy divine Words of Scripture break the staff of our pride and arrogance and force us to our knees. The Bible was also written to amaze us- that we stand amazed at the God of Creation that is revealed to us through the pages of Scripture. And we are to meditate upon the words of Scripture as we encounter deep and serious and eternal issues that are way beyond our own ability to comprehend- Scripture is there to cause us to relish in the mysteries and the vastness of God.

And Scripture is also designed on purpose to trouble us- to deeply affect us in profound ways. When the Truth of Scripture is accurately portrayed to us through the lips of a humble servant, we are confronted with our own sinfulness; our own unbelief; our own arrogance and our own black hearts and our own false pretenses and we are troubled- many times retreating to the comfort of our own homes only to wrestle with the angel all night long until we find the blessing.

Scripture clearly shows us who we really are- not what we *think* that we are, and it causes us to tremble- knowing that God would be right to judge us and so thankful that instead of receiving the judgment that we so deserve- He has instead given us His Mercy and Grace.

Only Scripture –rightly preached- and correctly heard- has the power to dissect the human soul and to uncover hidden sin; convict the heart and break the staff of our pride. Let's read **Hebrews 4:12&13:**

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Nothing else in heaven or earth can do what the Word can do and that is why the Word is both hated and loved more than anything else on earth.

God's Word is hated and despised by those who do not love Jesus and it is rejected by those who are not saved. These people do not want to be right with God- they want to be made to feel comforted in their sins- something that the Bible- nor any preacher worth his salt- would ever do.

These ungodly people love the great swelling words of the pillow prophets, and they flock to hear more and more of the false teaching of the heretics. They are not interested in being molded and shaped into the very image and likeness of Jesus Christ- they want what they want- and they want it now. They have little patience to learn precepts that will prepare them to stand before God in eternity- they want to live their best life now. As long as it makes them feel better and as long as it brings them good things- they want to hear all the great swelling words of the deceivers.

But God's Word is loved by those who value Truth and want to be in right standing with God because only the Word can clearly show us who we are and where we stand with God. We cannot trust our own hearts to show us this, dear friends, and we dare not be led by our own conscience for this task because the reliability of our heart and our conscience is only as good as what we have been feeding on.

For the most part, our hearts are wicked, and no man can know it- so the worst thing that we can possibly tell somebody is to follow their heart. What we need to follow is Scripture.

Now this passage in **Hebrews** that we just read says that the Bible is much more than just a Book; it is much more than a guide or a moral compass- this passage says that the Word of God is alive; it lives; it breathes; it moves, and it affects whatever it touches. The Word of God didn't originate from the mind of any man- no, this Word came from the very Mind and Heart and Mouth of Almighty God and therefore it is alive- it is more alive than we are- and it wasn't given to us so that it would sit on the shelf and collect dust- but it was given to us so that we *would* know it; so that we *would* understand it; that we *would* comprehend it; and so that we would study it and learn it and love it and humble ourselves to its authority and obey it.

This passage also says that the Bible is active and then it tells us just how active it is- The Word of God- rightly understood- has the power to pierce us to the core of our being. And it has this power because of its sharpness.

Arrogant words that make sinners comfortable are not sharp like Scripture- they are dull. Sin has dulled the edge of the sword of Man's arrogant words. And when the sword is dulled- it cannot pierce; it cannot cut; and therefore, it loses its ability to penetrate the hard heart of man.

Far too many preachers today harbor personal secret sins and that has caused them to dull the edge of the edge of the sword. Because they dare not preach against what they themselves are doing. But when the sword is dulled- the people do not hear the whole counsel of God and sin is not exposed and the people remain in their false conceptions.

But because the edge of the sword of the Word of God is sharper than any two edged sword- the man who uses *this* sword needs to be a man of Mercy; a man of Compassion; a man of Grace- a kind and gentle man- who is fully aware that it is not his own intelligence that called him; it is not his own personal righteousness that equips him- but it is God Who called him; God Who empowers him; and it is God to Whom he will have to answer to for how he used this sword.

Paul said that the man who uses this sword is an earthen vessel – a clay pot- a privy pot- that has no value and no glory of his own- but a man who is totally poured out in his soul to be obedient and faithful to the Lord.

But look at how the Word of God pierces us- this passage tells us that the Word of God divides between the soul of man and the spirit of man. That means that it goes way beyond outward actions and goes all the way into the very intent of the heart. But it doesn't stop there. The Bible says that the Word of God then goes all the way down to the very joints and marrow of the individual.

Now back in the mid nineteen eighties- my daughter, who was born mentally retarded- contacted leukemia. She had the rarest and hardest type of leukemia to treat, and she eventually went to heaven in 1989. But while she was being treated, we had to give her bone marrow tests- because unlike many other diseases, leukemia forms in the marrow of the bones. Modern chemotherapy is designed to wipe out the

bone marrow and as it grows back- the hope is that it will come back and not re-create the leukemia.

So, it is with the Truth. Most error goes all the way to the marrow of our being. It is engrained down into the DNA of our nature, and we have to have serious surgery to remove it. Only the true unhindered and unvarnished Word of God has the power to go all the way down. Arrogant words; shallow slogans; foolish fables; feel good theology and an easy Gospel does not have the power to penetrate down to the bone marrow and while these things may give us temporary happiness or temporary benefit- they will allow the disease of false doctrine to eventually consume us.

But it doesn't stop there. The Bible then goes on to say that the Word of God is able to discern or to tell the difference between the very thoughts and intents of the human heart. What a tool! Can't you see how important the Word is? No wonder the heretic are against Sound Doctrine. No wonder that ever since the Garden the devil and those who follow him have been casting doubt on God's Word.

But it doesn't even stop there. Look again at **Hebrews 4:13:**

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

You see, beloved, nothing and no one is hidden from God and therefore, nothing and no one is hidden from God' Word. It alone has the ability to uncover all the many things that we try to hide under. Only the Word has the ability to pierce into the hearts that we have hardened. Only the Word of God has the power to divide between the soul and spirit of man. And only the Word has the glorious anointing to tell the difference between the very thoughts and intent of our hearts.

But if this is true- which it is true- then by definition- the Word of Almighty God is offensive- because how many people really want to be confronted with their sin? It is deemed to be hard- because it condemns everything that is wrong. It is said that the Word of God is narrow minded because it remains a faithful revelation of God's Will- which never changes. And the Word of God is deemed to be irrelevant to modern life because it speaks of ancient and heavenly and eternal moral absolutes.

But the Word of God is only defined as offensive; hard; narrow minded and irrelevant by those who are yet in their sins and have not had their eyes opened and have not had their ears unstopped.

So, since that is true, the last thing that unsaved, unregenerate, or lukewarm people want to hear is the Word of God. Anything but that. Music- all day long- sure; political discussions – all day long absolutely; Social causes- every day; entertainment –as much as you can give them; arrogant words- you betcha- but just make sure that you keep the sermons short and funny and minimize all this talk about sin and repentance and hell and salvation and righteousness and make sure that if you have Bible Studies at all- that you marginalize them to be little more than shallow pop psychology.

You see, beloved, the Truth is that the only people on earth who love to hear the Word; the only group of people who truly desire to understand the Word; the only segment of society that literally craves to obey God's Word are those who have been regenerated by the miracle of the New Birth and who have received within themselves the new divine nature. And the leaders of the Church would do well to feed these people and to structure the Church services so that these people will be edified instead of catering to the people who do not love God.

Words that do not penetrate; words that do not convict; words that cannot discern between the thoughts and intent of the heart; words that do not led people to repentance- these are the great swelling words that Jude was talking about, and these are the very words that we are to avoid.

But we enjoy arrogant words. Arrogant words make us feel good about ourselves; but what we need is the Word of God; a Word that is able to pierce us; a Word that is able to divide; a Word that is able to discern and a Word that will break our hearts and bend our knees and bring su to desperation so that we will beat our chest and cry out to God for mercy. And this is why we all need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. 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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