

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

## An Expositional Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

### Chapter 16- Winning Souls in an Age of Apostasy **Jude 22-23**

### 196 Winning Souls in an Age of Apostasy Part 8

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WOSM Wednesday 08/06/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today we are going to continue to examine what Jude taught about "How to Win Souls in an Age of Apostasy". So, let's read **Jude 22& 23** again together:

**22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting;**  
**23 save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.**

Now before we get into our message today, I want all of you to know just how much I greatly appreciate your response to these broadcasts. I love Jesus Christ with all my heart and everything that I say on these broadcasts is designed so that you may see Jesus high and lifted up; and that you may love Him more fully; honor Him in all that you do and obey Him from your heart.

I want God's people to savor the things of God so that to you the delight of your life is to love and serve Jesus Christ.

We live in very perilous times- these are powerful days- in which our nation is at war *externally* against a religion founded on demonic powers which seeks to destroy us, and we are at war *internally* for the very soul of our nation against a very militant but vocal minority of people who seek to remove every vestige of Christian influence from our culture.

Both of these wars are against a committed and well financed enemy and both of these wars are being fought every day. One is being fought in the streets of a *foreign* land- which is far better than fighting this war here in *our* land. The other war is being waged in every city;

in every school; in every Church; in every home; and in every heart in America.

One enemy doesn't want you to pray at all and the other enemy wants you to pray to the false god named Allah. And so, both enemies must be faced and both enemies must be fought and both enemies must be defeated, or we will lose, and we will lose big.

Now you are familiar with both of these wars, but you need to know that there is a third war that we are engaged in, and it is this third war that I am primarily concerned about, and it is this third war that these broadcasts are designed to do battle against.

This third war is the long protracted War over Truth. Not just any Truth- but Divinely inspired Truth. This war is about the integrity of Scripture against a whole host of *spiritual* "terrorists" who Jude said have crept into the Church to undermine that which God has said.

Ever since the Garden of Eden- satan's primary attack against Man has been over the Word of God. The very first words that the serpent said to Eve was"

**"Indeed, has God said?"**

"Did God really say not to eat of the fruit of that tree, Eve? Is that really what God said? Surely it won't be wrong for you to eat of that fruit. Look at how nice and beautiful that fruit looks; just imagine all that it could do for you. God is mean to restrict this beautiful fruit from you."

And when Eve told the serpent that God had forbidden them to eat and that if they did they would surely die- Eve was operating under the fear of sinning against God. This kind of fear is good; it is proper; it is correct to have this kind of reverential and holy fear about that which God says.

But how did satan respond to Eve's words which were based in the fear of the Lord?

"Naaaaah, you won't die. Go ahead. Take the fruit; eat it; it will make you wise; it will make you to be like God. Surely God wouldn't destroy you for simply trying to be like Him!"

So, the woman took of the fruit that God has forbidden and ate of

it and gave to Adam, who was standing right there next to her, and he ate it, and the Fall of Man was accomplished. And the result is that sin entered the World and now we have war and disease and death and poverty and malice and injustice and thorns and thistles and pain in childbirth- all because Gods' Word was not honored, and it was not loved, and it was not cherished, and it was not obeyed, and it was not feared.

Now I want you to notice four things about this event:

1. satan always attacks God's Word. What God said and what God meant by what He said is always the issue with satan. He tries to twist God's Word; mis-interpret it; ignore it; reject it; change it; alter it- anything but love it and believe it and submit to it and obey it. Therefore, those who are in league with satan put little or no emphasis on reading the Word of God; studying the Word of God; understanding the Word of God; correctly interpreting the Word of God; loving the Word of God and obeying the Word of God.
2. satan always tries to remove or reduce the impact of the Word of God by mocking the dread and the fear of disobeying the Word of God in the hearts of God's people. And those who are in league with satan do the same.
3. Disobedience to that which God says brings swift and certain and severe judgment
4. The only doctrine that teaches anyone that humans can be gods originated from satan and was used to destroy the human race.

Now what is so sad is that our generation knows less about the Word of God than any generation in human history. And that fact is bringing us great trouble. For over 1900 years, the Church taught that believers had a great need to study and be taught the Word of God so that they would be strong; and so that they could learn how to honor and serve God; and so that they could escape Judgment; and so that they may live faithful to their Calling. But for some unknown reason, we have ceased that effort and we have reduced the urgency of understanding what God said and we have minimized the importance of Sound Biblical Doctrine.

For over 1900 years, the Church believed that the main focus of the House of God was to rightly and fully teach the Word of God so that the

people would know what the Lord has said and why. The Church was the pillar and ground of the Truth; the Stalwart in a sea of morass; a Beacon of light in a dark and dreary world. So, teaching God's people the Words that came from God's Mouth was the primary focus of the House of God. So, for 19 centuries line upon line; precept upon precept teaching of the Holy Bible was conducted by the Church so that Gods' people could see Jesus more clearly and gain new power to run in the race and be fed with spiritual milk and so that they would be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might so that they could see heresy and false teaching and bad doctrine a mile off so that they would not be deceived and so they could live their lives with hope and to glorify God.

But over the last 150 years or so, the Church has lost sight of that focus and as a result one of the hardest things to do today is find a Church that actually teaches and preaches Sound Doctrine and a Church which engages in line upon line; precept upon precept studies of the only Book that God gave to Man. These are the things that are eternal; and spiritual and holy and godly and these are the things that produced strong Christians and men who were well able to fight off false teaching when it would periodically come.

And the result of this wayward course of action in the Church is both visible for all to see and it is very tragic. The result of the Church leaving her first love and going about to engage itself in other things that are temporary and carnal is that the very same devil who deceived Eve about what God said is going to and fro throughout the earth deceiving a new generation of Eve's about that which God has said.

Ancient heresies that the Christian Church confronted and examined and fought and defeated many centuries ago are making a vicious comeback in our day- all because we don't know what God has said.

According to Christianity Today Magazine (this information is not coming from me)- but according to Christianity Today Magazine- Back in the 1700's- before there were books; before there were libraries; before there was Christian radio and Christian bookstores and Bible software and the internet- the average person who attended Church knew more about the Word of God than we do now, and this glaring lack of Biblical knowledge is causing God's people today to perish.

At a time when the leaders of Islam are working overtime to cause this nation to become an Islamic Republic, inexplicably- seminary

professors all across our country are counseling their young ministry students to “lighten up”, and “learn some jokes”.

We are being taught about how to have fun and how to make our children hit more home runs and how to have whiter and brighter teeth and how to make more money and how to buy 57 inch televisions and how to think better about ourselves- but our knowledge about God- and our corresponding reverential fear of this God is not growing and is diminishing.

Now people tell me all the time, “I don’t need Doctrine- I just want to love Jesus”. But that statement reveals a complete lack of what Doctrine is. The fact of the matter is that you cannot love a Jesus that you do not know. You cannot worship a God that you do not know. If you do not know God- then you are simply doing what they did in Ephesus in the first century and you are loving and worshipping the “Unknown God”. Without knowing God through God’s Own Revelation of Himself through Scripture- the god that you are loving and the god that you are worshipping may well be one of the many false gods that people have worshipped and loved all throughout time.

And I must tell you that by giving God certain characteristics that the Bible does not give Him and by taking away certain characteristics that the Bible does assign to God- you are in effect creating your own god that you like – a god that suites your own personal desires – and that, beloved, is classic blasphemy.

The Sunday Morning Church Service is supposed to be about God’s chosen people leaving the comfort of their own individual homes and gathering together in a public place for the purpose of learning about God; for the purpose of worshipping God; of hearing what God has to say; of being reminded that we are sinful wretched creatures who deserve eternal damnation and it is Mercy that rewrote our lives and it is Grace that caught our falling souls and so we hear God’s inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative, relevant, and eternal Word read out loud publicly in our ears and then we learn just what God has actually said; and what God meant by what he said; and how we can believe that and how we can fully trust in that and to understand that Church and Salvation and Christianity is not about us fulfilling our dreams; it is not about us feeling better about ourselves; it is not about us getting tips on better living; it is not about us learning how to be more moral; it is

about us coming to the Cross of Jesus Christ and dying so that God can be glorified.

As we become more therapeutic in our Church services; as human psychology becomes more and more important in Church; as Madison Avenue Marketing techniques and Wall Street financial schemes become more and more important; as style and salesmanship; and lights and smoke and mirrors become more important; as more attention is paid on the preacher; his clothes; his style; his approach; his power; and his personal experiences; as clever phrases and catchy slogans all become more and more important in Church; as Church becomes more and more about Man and less and less about God- fewer and fewer people are concentrating on actually knowing and loving and worshipping God and things like God's Holiness; and God's Character and God's Nature and God's hatred of Sin and the certainty of His Wrath against Sin and the infinite preciousness of Grace and the Power of Christ in living a sinless life and fulfilling the Law all become more and more irrelevant to a self absorbed; self centered; and self obsessed generation that bounces from one pleasure to the next and that is literally entertaining themselves to death.

And this is why I am on the radio. This is why I am preaching and teaching the **Epistle of Jude**. That is why I am crying out to all who have an ear to hear that we are not at some crossroads where we need to make a choice. No, the modern American Church for the most part took the wrong road many years ago and we are now reaping the world wind of rejecting what Jude cautioned us to do and to earnestly contend for the very same faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

Well, I have 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.

