

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

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

Chapter 17- Hating the Garment Spotted by the Flesh **Jude 23**

199 Hating the Polluted Garment Part 1

WOSM Monday 08/11/08; WAOY Wednesday 02/21/07

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “journey” through the **Epistle of Jude** and today we are going to begin a new section of our study and find out just what Jude meant when he said that we should “hate the polluted garment”. So, let’s read Jude 23 again together:

save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

Now we have moved through the godly fear that pulls us out of the fire that this verse talks about and today I want to linger just a moment on the last part of this verse- because it is so relevant to us today. Let’s read the last part of verse 23 again:

... hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

Now when you think about the word, “hate” what comes to your mind? Probably something hideous. Hate is so wrong and so evil- yet here the inspired, infallible, inerrant, Word of the living God is telling you and me to hate something. So, is hate right or is hate wrong? Are we supposed to hate or are we supposed to refrain from hating? Anytime you have a question like this- we must resist the temptation to use our own human logic or base our answer on our own personal experience- but we, who love the Lord, must turn to God’s Word and see what God says about it.

Another very important thing to remember when trying to do Word studies is *not* to use a paraphrase- but use a reliable translation. I know that many of you who listen to me use the NIV- but the NIV is

simply *not* suitable to use when conducting thorough Word studies because the NIV is a *paraphrase* of the Scriptures and the publishers have already tried to do word studies for you when they produced this version. So, since that is true, many words that you need to look at when correctly exegeting the Scriptures won't be found in your NIV.

I recommend the King James Version; the New King James; the NASB; the English Standard Version; or the Holman Christian Standard Version when doing Word studies.

The King James is written on a twelfth grade reading level and all the others are written on an eighth grade reading level. So, it is fine to use any of those five versions- just be sure that they haven't changed the meaning of the Words because that will get you off base real quick.

For example- the word, "hate" is listed 87 times in the New American Standard Version. There are 71 references in the Old Testament and 16 references in the New. There are two Hebrew words which were translated as "hate" in the King James- *sane*- which means: *to hate* and is the antonym of the word, "love"; and *satam*- which means: *to hold a grudge or to harass*.

There is also an Aramaic word that was translated into English as "hate" used in **Psalms 18:40**, when David said:

You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me, And I destroyed those who hated me.

...and every other reference in the Old Testament is either *sane* or *satam* and either means "hate" as we know hate today or it means: *to hold a grudge or to harass someone*.

Now over in the New Testament- there are two Greek words that were translated as "hate" 16 times: *miseo*- which means: *a person implying active ill will in words and conduct; or a persecuting spirit*- and *homoios*- which means: *acting likewise in the sense that Jesus said that He "hated" the Doctrine of the Nicolaitans in **The Revelation 2:15** likewise or in the same way that the people of the Church at Ephesus hated their deeds in **The Revelation 2:6***.

So, we have five words that were translated 87 times from cover to cover in the Bible to mean "hate". And so, from this are we to conclude that *some* words that were translated into "hate" don't actually mean the same thing as other words and that is why some "hate" is good and

other kinds of hate is wrong? Is that what we are to think? NO. We have to understand that what determines whether or not hate is wrong and sinful- is the *object* of our hatred- not the word meanings.

“Whoa- wait a minute, Brother Blair! Are you saying that we are *supposed* to hate some things while we are not to hate other things? Are you trying to say that God *desires* that we hate some things; that it is His Will that we hate certain things?” Yes, that is exactly what I am saying to you. Let’s examine what God says about this.

For example, the Bible is clear that some people on earth hate God. They “*sane*” God, which is the opposite of the word, love. These people are in hostile and many times premeditated opposition to God and the Word of God and the ways of God. Well, just who are these people who hate God and who are in hostile and direct violation of the Word of God? Let’s read **Exodus 20:4-6**:

4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

5 "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Here Moses is on the mountain with God 40 days and 40 nights, and he is fasting. God Almighty is carving into tablets of stone His Law with His Own Finger. The Mountain is shaking, and a fire is burning at the top of the mountain. And down below- the children of Israel have already fallen into sin and have made a golden calf and have taken all their clothes off and are dancing around the golden calf saying that this is the god that brought them out of Egypt. Meanwhile, at the top of the mountain- Moses is watching God give 10 laws with His Own Hand.

And this second Commandment is that we are not to make any graven image of anything that is in the earth- animals; birds; and even people- and we are not to bow down to these images. Now the word, “graven” means to hew or to cut. So, these images are not photographs or even mirrors; but are carved and hewed statues of animals; birds; and people; and other gods. God says that we are not to make these statues and we are not to bow down to them.

So, any person; any organization; any group; any church which has cut or hewed statues of people or angels or other gods or animals or birds or fish for the purpose of bowing down to these statues and actually praying to the them- these people who do this and the people who teach people to do this are pagans in the Biblical sense of the word and are committing idolatry and are in direct hostility toward God.

Now before any of you try to rationalize this- we have to agree that there are absolutely no exceptions to this Law from cover to cover in the Bible. That is because this Law is not temporary as some of God's Laws were. This Law is not ceremonial; dietary; or sacrificial; but this law is a moral law because it reflects the very Character and Nature of God Himself and is always binding upon all people in every country throughout all ages- even in the New Testament.

And before you get angry with me and say that I am just bashing certain religious groups- I want you to remember that I didn't establish these Laws- Almighty God did and so if you have a problem with this- don't bring it up to me- bring it up to the God Who gave them.

Rather than be angry at someone who is faithfully preaching the Word of God- and warning people who are violating it to repent- you need to ask these people why they think they can violate the eternal Law of God with impunity and without fear? And you need to be angry at the leaders who teach these people to violate the Word of God.

Beloved, any attempt by any person or any group or any organization or any church or any nation for any reason to make up their own rules or to develop their own Theology or Doctrine isolated from the Authority of Scripture is wrong. We do not have the right- none of us- to develop our own religion. We who love God must humbly and graciously bow and submit to that which God has said if we are to have any hope at all to be pleasing in His sight.

The lost unregenerate world calls any effort to worship any god in any way as noble and good and worthwhile and religious and something worthy of our respect. They admire any attempt by anyone to try to climb up into heaven their own way. But God doesn't call that noble at all; neither does God see that as being good- neither does God give it respect. God sees it as a hostile and rebellious affront to His Own Holiness. God sees it as idolatry and a blatant attempt by Man to supplant God's Own Infallible Word and Order with the word and ideas of fallen Man. So therefore, God sees this and many other things like

this as sin; He sees it as evil and wicked and an attempt at perverting the right way of the Lord.

And God commands that those who follow and serve Him to “hate”; to “despise”; to “reject”; to “look down on”; to “disdain”; to “not love” these things. We are not to do it; we are not to agree with it; we are not to support it; we are not to go along with it, and we are not to tolerate it in our hearts; in our homes; in our churches and the nation that is wise; the nation that fears God; the nation that seeks after God’s blessings would do well not to tolerate it either.

Now real quickly, there is a teaching out there which says that we must “bind” the so-called “generational curses” which are passed down from father to son to the third and fourth generation. In some areas great research is conducted to try to find out just what our forefathers did wrong so that today we can “counter-act” the curse. And these people use part of verse 5 of the passage that I just read to justify what they are doing.

... for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

Now these people reason among themselves that unless they “bind the generational curse”- that the curse is still active in the lives of people- even after they are saved. Now I know some of these people and they are as sweet and loving, and they are as sincere as they can be about this- but they are wrong. We must be careful, beloved, in our effort to help people that we are not lowering or minimizing all that Salvation does for us.

When I got saved; holy Blood; pure Blood; sinless Blood washed all my sins away and now I struggle against the lusts of my flesh by the Power of the Holy Spirit to live in humble and joyful submission to the Authority of Holy Scripture in my daily life- all to the Glory of God. And so, I don’t care if my pappy was a horse thief or if my grandfather was a child molester- I now have royal Blood flowing through my veins and God the Holy Spirit lives and dwells and walks in me and everything that I did and everything that I was a part of and everything that I thought that was sinful has been washed away and my sin has been cast into the depth of the sea never to be remembered against me

anymore. And so now I am able to sing: *“Free at last; free at last; thank God Almighty, I am free at last!”*

You see, since I am now saved- I no longer hate the Lord- I no longer walk in rebellion towards my God; I no longer live in opposition to His Word and His ways and God’s Wrath has been averted away from me and the tyrannical and dominating power of sin that was over me has now been broken. And so, when God convicts me that I have said something wrong or thought something wrong or did something that displeases my precious Lord- God gives me both the desire and the power to repent of that sin and to quickly turn away from it and then to learn from it; and climb up on top of it and go right on loving and serving Jesus. You see, I’m saved, and I am going to heaven and because I am saved- no curse from man of demon can lay a hand on me anymore. **Exodus 20:6** tells you what God does for saved people:

... showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

So let us all be careful that we are not sinning against God and that we are not living and operating in idolatry and that we are not wasting our time trying to do something that Jesus has already done.

So please don’t make any idols and please don’t bow down and pray to them and please don’t spend your time binding so-called generational curses- but spend your time reading and studying God’s holy Word so that we may offer Jesus Christ an acceptable sacrifice which is our lives submitted to His Word. 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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