

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**

203 Hating the Spotted Garment Part 5

WOSM Friday 08/15/08; WAOY Wednesday 02/28/07

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “journey” through the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to continue to look at what Jude taught about “Hating 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 over the last several broadcasts, we have gone over the issue of hate and today I want to focus on just *how* we are to obey what Jude says here. We say all the time that Gods’ Word is true and that we believe every single word that is in the Bible. Well, this is in the Bible. The Bible says right here that we are to hate the garment that is polluted by the flesh. So, do we do that? Do we actually hate in the sense that this kind of hate is the opposite of love- do we literally hate the garment that is polluted by the flesh?

What Jude is telling us is that we have to learn how to hate sin. We have to learn how to hate it in all of its forms because it is false teaching that encourages us to pollute our garments. It is heresy that teaches us to put wrinkles on our garment but the only garment that can stand before God is the garment that is clean and without spots or wrinkles. Let’s read **2Peter 3:14**:

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

So, Peter didn’t say here that we are to lay back and just coast our way into Heaven- no, Peter didn’t say that we could just sit on our

doublewides and say, *“Bless God, I’m saved, and I don’t have to worry about all that”*. No, Peter said under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that we are to be diligent; we are to be alert; be awake; be aware; be strong; be faithful; be diligent so that we may be found how? So that we may be found by God in peace; with what kind of garment?- a garment that is without spot and blameless.

Now that is what it says- so I ask you- is your garment spotless and blameless or has it been spotted by the world? Has your garment been spotted by the sinful friends that you hang around with? What about that worldly music that you listen to- does it puts spots on your garment? Has your garment become spotted through the nasty words that come out of your mouth and the nasty thoughts that come from your heart? Has your garment been spotted by the fact that you live and walk and function every day in unforgiveness? What about the spots of pride and arrogance and lust and greed? What about those nasty books that you’ve been reading- do you think that they spot up your garment?

You see, my beloved, the fact is that we tolerate sin in our lives precisely because we don’t hate it. We do not despise our sin and therefore we become familiar with our sin. We do not hate it and so we become acquainted with it. We have bought into the lie that because we sin that somehow God doesn’t mind or that God understands or that Jesus came and died so that when we sin we just won’t feel guilty about it or that Grace means that God doesn’t care about sin like He used to or that because I am saved I have my ticket punched and now I have a license to do anything I ma big enough to do; or some other perversion of Truth like that.

I have heard people tell me that because they went down front or because they walked the aisle or because they shook the preacher’s hand or because they got baptized- they believe that they now can live any way that they want to live and it’s all just fine with Jesus. Let me be the first to break the news to those of you who think like that- that you are deceived. Being saved means that you no longer belong to yourself. Being saved means that Jesus Christ owns you- lock, stock, and barrel- and that you are now a bond slave of the Lord Jesus Christ. Being saved means that you go where He wants you to go; you do what He wants you to do; You say what He wants you to say; you live as He tells you to live. Jesus said that if you loved Him- you would obey Him

and if you live in constant rebellion to God's Word- you do not belong to Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters we have taken these things way too flippantly. We minimize God's hatred of sin and therefore we do not see the horror of our sin, nor do we see the terror of the Lord. We need to be constantly reminded about the fact that God is very, very serious about how we live and what we do and how we think and what we believe. And unless we become as serious about our sin as God is; unless we begin to look at sin the same way that God looks at sin; Until you and I begin to hate our sin- the way God hates sin- we will continue to engage in it.

Now I've been in a lot of prayer meetings. I have been in prayer meetings when God's Spirit was so thick you could cut it with a knife. I have heard God's precious people give their prayer requests for over 40 years. We pray for this one going to the hospital and that one who has a sore knee, and we pray about Susie's surgery and Aunt Bessie's bad back and we need to do that because God is concerned about both Susie and Aunt Bessie.

But I seldom ever hear a prayer request any more given about hating sin. It is very rare that anyone asks about things like this. Why? Don't we all deal with sin every day? Isn't sin our biggest problem in this life? Wouldn't it be better if we could be more convicted over our sin? Wouldn't we all be more pleasing to the Lord if we treated sin as though it was bad? Wouldn't we all sin less if we hated sin more? Are we trying to suggest that we don't have a sin problem by never praying about our sin problem? Is that what our silence means? Don't you think that if we are to ever hope to begin to hate the garment that is spotted by the flesh- don't you think that we need to pray that God will grant us a right view; a correct view; a biblical view of sin and the horror of it?

I suppose that we run about 90/10 in our modern prayer meetings today. We spend about 90% of our prayer time praying about temporary and material and earthly and physical things that are passing away and about 10% of our time praying about permanent and spiritual and heavenly and celestial things that are eternal. But it wasn't always that way. Go back into history and read what people prayed about during the early years of the Church. It was just the

opposite. They prayed about 90% of the time about eternal matters and only 10% of the time about things that are passing away.

When it was against the law to be a Christian; when persecution against the Church was at an all time high; when getting saved could very well cost you everything you owned including your life- read what the early church prayed about. They didn't pray about their own safety; they didn't pray about becoming more comfortable or having more stuff or about how much God owed them or about even their physical ailments. No, let's you and I sneak into one of their prayer meetings today and let's listen to how these men of God prayed. Turn with me to **The Acts 4:23-33:**

23 When they had been released, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

24 And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who **MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM,**

25 who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, '**WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?**

26 '**THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'**

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

29 "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,

30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.

32 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one *of them* claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.

33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

Now that is a prayer meeting! Now I want you to keep in mind what had happened just prior to that kind of praying. Back in the first 22 verses of Chapter 4, the evil rulers had arrested Peter and the rest of the Apostles and had put them into prison overnight. The next day, they grilled them over the Power of God that these Apostles had manifested. When given the opportunity, Peter didn't talk about how unjustly they had been treated- but he used this opportunity to preach the Gospel to his tormentors. Peter confronted these men with their own sins and preached the Gospel to them- never one time asking to be set free; and without writing a letter to the Governor asking for mercy or intervention; or by politicking to get the right Judge on the Court.

No, Peter simply preached the Gospel to those who were against him. Next, the rulers commanded the Apostles to never preach in the Name of Jesus again. And Peter responded by telling these rulers that they needed to know that he was going to obey God and not them.

And in verse 21, the Bible says that the evil rulers "threatened" them further. That is a term that meant that they beat them with rods. So here were the Apostles of the Lord. They had been arrested; thrown in jail; beaten and commanded to never preach again in the Name of Jesus.

It was in *this* setting that they had their prayer meeting that we just read. Now notice very carefully what they *didn't* pray about in this prayer meeting. They never mentioned their wounds; they never prayed about how unfair their arrest had been; they never made one word to God about where was He when all this trouble had come upon them. But what *did* they ask God to do? In spite of being unfairly treated; in spite of being beaten with rods; In spite of being arrested and threatened; and in spite of being commanded to never preach again in the Name of Jesus- how did the Apostles pray?

The Acts 4:29

And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,

With absolutely no regard for how this would impact their lives

personally, and in direct defiance to an official prohibition to never preach again, the Apostles prayed that the Word of God could be preached from their mouths with all boldness.

Now during the Civil War, President Lincoln called the entire nation to a three day fast to repent of the sins of the country because he knew and everybody else knew that the reason that the country was at war was because they had forgotten God.

All throughout our nation's history men of God called the nation and individual states and particular cities to fast and pray and repent when the crops would fail; and when the murder rate went up; and when adultery went on a rampage; and when the saloons were full; and when the parking lot at the Church was half empty during Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings- because they knew and everyone else knew that God was not pleased and that judgment was upon them and God heard their cry and God forgave their sin and God healed their land.

And I tell you that the sin of this nation has reached up into Heaven and God has dropped the hedge of protection that was around this nation and evil men now have access to hurt us real bad and it is time to once again grab the horns of the altar and it is time again to weep between the porch and the altar and it is time to repent of our backsliding and our lukewarmness our covetousness and our arrogance and of loving our sin and it is time for us to seek God's Face and to cry aloud and spare not and lift up our voice like a trumpet- that God would have mercy upon us and that God would cause us to return to our first love and to begin again to love the things that God loves and to hate the things that God hates.

Brothers and sisters it is high time for us to begin to examine our garments to see if they are spotted; to see if they are wrinkled and to see if they are blemished and to examine our hearts and to examine our lives to see if we are in the faith and to love the Lord our God with all of our hearts and with all of our souls and with all of our mind and with all of our strength and to hate the garment that is even spotted by the flesh.

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.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse- by- verse Journey through the Epistle of Jude. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

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.