

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

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

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

204 Hating the Spotted Garment Part 6

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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 what Jude was talking about when he said that we are to hate even the garment polluted by the flesh. Jude was illustrating that it really does matter what our personal beliefs because we do not have the right to simply make up our own doctrine or to apply our own personal, private interpretation on Scripture simply because that makes our own personal designer theology work out. But Jude and all of the other men whom God used to pen down sacred Scripture taught that we must work very hard; we must be diligent; we must struggle in order to get the Gospel right. Let’s read the Apostle Paul’s admonition to Timothy about this in **2Timothy 2:15**:

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

All of the Apostles knew that if we do not learn the Truth and if we do not diligently study the Truth- that people would come into the Church to warp and change the Truth and we would lose sight of that which God has said. This entire **Epistle of Jude** was written to awaken

God's people to the need to love and value God's Word to the extent that we would gladly push other things out of the way so that we could learn and know and cherish the Words of Life.

But inexplicably, many in the Church today do not see the need to know or study or even read God's Word on a regular basis and yet these same people see no danger in that. In fact, so many Church members have fallen in love with this present world so much that to even suggest that we should turn off the television and read our Bibles seems to many to be legalistic, cruel, harsh, unloving, and even unchristian.

People who are alive today are literally watching the dismantling of Western Civilization right before their eyes. We are beholding the beginnings of a religious war between orthodox Islam and the West, and we are watching ungodly people, who don't believe in anything, transform our culture through the American Court System and yet in spite of those great evils- many today are still fast asleep and completely unconcerned at one of the most crucial junctures in human history.

I can assure you that if the demonic followers of Muhammad succeed in transforming the United States into an Islamic Republic- you won't sit home and watch the game then; you won't spend hours playing video games then; and perhaps then- after we are oppressed and enslaved we will awaken to the great need to love and serve God with all our hearts.

It is almost beyond belief that anyone could think that God would go to such great lengths to give us His Word and then not desire that we read it and know it. But more and more often it is common to hear foolish statements like, "*We don't need Doctrine- we just need love*", or "*Doctrines divide people, but Jesus brings them together*", or "*Studying the Word too much will quench the Spirit*".

Liberal and untrue statements like that reflect great ignorance about how controversial Jesus really was when He walked this earth and about how much He and the Apostles taught about the need to learn Truth correctly and teach it to others also.

So, you tell me. I am saying that we are living in the last days- do you believe that? And I am saying that part of being in the last days is not just all the national and international signs that are occurring. Those things are fascinating, and they are indeed signs,

but please don't miss the signs that are vastly more important and vastly closer to home.

I mean, I understand about the Temple being rebuilt and I understand about what is going to happen in and with the nation of Israel and I understand about the rise of the man of sin- and all of that is going to happen to be sure- but please, my brothers and sisters, let us also read and talk about all the other signs of the Second Coming and all the other signs of the Last Days that affect all of us too. Signs like this in **2Thessalonians 2:3**, when Paul said:

Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come unless the apostasy comes first...*

What does that mean when Paul said, “**for *it will not come unless the apostasy comes first...***” What does that mean? What is the “**apostasy**” that the Apostle Paul speaks of here? Well, first of all- the word, “apostasy” comes from the Greek word, *apostasia* and means: *to fall or to defect into false teaching*. So right off the bat- you can't fall away from something unless you were somewhere higher in the first place. To “fall” is to go back; to go down; to depart from something; it is to be drawn away; and to become lukewarm. To “fall into apostasy then is to leave the Truth and go after something else that is false. So put this all back together. The Apostle Paul spoke under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and said that the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to this earth will not come until God's people specifically and the Church in general falls or defects into false teaching; until they leave something that is better and go after something that is worse; until they become lukewarm.

Now please remember, I didn't write this- but God the Holy Spirit did. And if it doesn't mean what I just said it means- then please tell me what it *does* mean- because we have to agree that it means *something*. God didn't put this in the Bible simply because He had some space left on the page- but He told us how things would be before the return of Jesus Christ.

So, when you see people in the Church falling away from the Truth; when you see God's people willingly ignorant of the Bible; when you see all of these things come to pass- then you can know that we are living in the last days. And Jude says that we are to *hate* this kind of pollution that is staining the glorious garment of the Church

in these last days. And we are instructed in the Epistle of Jude to hate these filthy garments that are being polluted by the flesh and cry out against them.

Well, are there any more signs that we are living in the last days? Yes. Turn with me to **2Timothy 3:1-8**:

1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these *men* also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.

Look specifically at verses 2-5 again:

2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

Now verse 1 says that these signs are not going to be signs that appear all throughout history to various people, but are specific signs that are going to affect the Church and that these signs are going to occur in the last days.

So, I ask you. Compared to the early Church- do we fit this bill today? Paul said that in the last days, men would be lovers of their

own selves. Are we not lovers of ourselves today? Do not many of the most widely known preachers today actually teach that one of the most important things that we can do as God' people today is to build up our own self esteem? Well, Jude says that we are to hate this spot. Paul said that in the last days, men would be covetous. When you look around, is this not the most covetous generation in the 2,000 year history of the Church? Is not the very foundational teaching of many in the modern Church that the sure sign of being saved is that we all increase in wealth and material possessions? Beloved, Jude says that we are to hate the spot of covetousness.

Paul said that one of the sure signs of the last days is that the people of God would be become unthankful. And because we have bought into the lie that material goods makes us happy- we have become the most self absorbed; self centered; and unhappy people the world has ever known. And Jude says that we are to hate that.

On and on Paul went describing the horror of people who know to do good but yet who fall in love with things that cannot ever please God. These signs that Paul puts forth escalate until he sums them all up by saying that in the last days- just prior to the return of Jesus Christ- rather than the Church being on fire for God and remaining faithful- the Church will love pleasure more than they God.

That is one of the best descriptions of many today in the modern Church that I know of. This is precisely why Prayer Meetings and Bible Studies are the least attended service by any Church in America today- men love pleasure more than they love God. This is why Church after Church is cancelling Bible Studies and replacing them with motorcycle riding clubs and quilting classes and weight loss seminars- men love pleasure more than they love God. This is why Church after Church canceled their Sunday night service this past February so that the men of the Church could stay home and watch the Super Bowl- men love pleasure more than they love God. And this is why a Church can pack out the house as long as they offer some form of light, funny, unserious, entertainment- because we are living in the last days and men are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

Now before you turn off the radio in anger toward me please remember- I'm not the one who said these things- Paul said them under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. So, because these words are

from God- then one of two things is true. Either what I have just said is right or else we are not living in the last days- because Paul said that these things would happen in the Church in the last days.

All this means that the Church is going to get weak right before Jesus comes. That means that God's people are going to fall in love with this life and the natural things of this life and that we are going to love that stuff more than we love God. So, Jude sees all this and Jude cries to those who have an ear to hear and tells us that we need to hate these things that can spot our garments and that we need to keep our garments white and clean and free from wrinkles and that we need to work real hard that this doesn't happen to us and that we all need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

So, I pray that if you have not gotten anything else from these broadcasts- that you have seen the great need that we have today to love and value and cherish and appreciate God's Word enough to spend time with it and to uncover the great and glorious Truths that God has revealed in Holy Scripture for yourself. And that we all love the Lord with all our hearts and that we hate the garment that is 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.

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