

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**

189 Winning Souls in an Age of Apostasy Part 1

WOSM Monday 07/28/08

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 begin to examine what Jude taught about "How to Win Souls in an Age of Apostasy." So, let's read **Jude 22& 23** 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 over the last nine months, we have gone through a very thorough verse by verse; line upon line; precept upon precept examination of the **Epistle of Jude** that I pray has been a real blessing to you. Judging from all the calls and letters and E-mails that you have sent my way- this study has helped many of you and I am so grateful for that. Keep in mind that I am going to make this study available both on CD and in Book form when we are finished- so you might want to go ahead and order your copy now.

During our study- we have found out that this **Epistle of Jude**- more than any other Book in the entire Bible- deals almost exclusively with the issue of false teaching and heresy and apostasy that sneaks into the Church under the guise of being a new revelation or a fresh anointing and which fights against the Christian Faith by deceiving unstable and undiscerning people.

Now although Jude only has 25 verses- we have seen that by slowing down and examining each verse in the context in which it was originally written- that Jude was really telling us quite a bit.

We have learned that just as we are engaged in a war against terror as a nation- we who love Jesus and who make up the Church of the

First Born are in a war against error. And like the war against terror- this spiritual war against error is a long and protracted war over knowing and understanding and loving and obeying Divine Truth as recorded for us in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible.

During this study, we have learned so much about the real danger that we face today against those who bring in false doctrine and heresy to the Church of Jesus Christ- that Jude says that these men creep into the Church under the guise of being a self proclaimed prophet or apostle with all sorts of tales of fantastic visions, dreams, and angelic visitations which are nothing more than ancient heresies that have been repackaged and labeled as being “new and improved”.

And we have seen that because so little emphasis has been placed on serious; deep; line upon line; precept upon precept Bible Studies and fervent and effectual Prayer Meetings and of God’s people being taught and learning Sound Biblical Truth in the modern Church- people today are much more susceptible to being deceived and taken away by these false teachers than at any other time in the 2,000 year history of the Church. Truly all of our economic and technological advancements have not elevated spiritual discernment among God’s people at all.

More people who sit on pews all across our nation today understand less about the Bible than they did when the majority of people were illiterate and that is the direct result of the Church in America taking the wrong road many years ago by emphasizing people’s individual felt needs to the expense of them knowing and learning Sound Doctrine.

The result is that today pastors are under such pressure to perform so that the Church is full of people and money is flowing like a river that little attention if any is spent on the substance of what is being taught and what is being believed by God’s people.

And I cry out to all who have an ear to hear to repent quickly for leaving your first love; repent for making the Church a social club; repent for bringing the marketing techniques into the world so that your Church will grow; repent for bringing worldly psychology into your Church because God is much more concerned that His people are holy than He is that they are happy; repent for canceling the prayer meetings and the Bible studies and having pottery classes and yoga classes; repent for bringing in people who tickle the ears of God’s people with soft and smooth words of happy and unserious issues while the world is on fire; repent for ordaining perverted people into places of

authority; repent for encouraging women to leave their children and homes and stand where they ought not stand.

I tell you that Jude cried out that we all need to earnestly contend for the very same faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints and unless and until we get back to the Bible and back to Sound Biblical teaching- that will never happen.

Jude has shown us in this book the various characteristics of the heretics- how they are just like Korah and Balaam and Cain and how they make merchandise of God's people selling their trinkets and their anointing oil and their prayer cloths; how they teach that the highest love on earth is love for self rather than teach people that the highest form of love is selfless love for God; how they teach that gain is godliness; how they promote people doing what is right in their own eyes; and how they have made covetousness and materialism and greed to become virtues in many people's minds rather than the sins that the Bible says that they are.

So now we have come to the two verses which teach us how that we are to deliver souls who have been ensnared by this false teaching. These two verses tell us more than just about soul winning in general, but are geared to winning those people who have believed a lie and are following heresy.

Here in verses 22 & 23, Jude gives us two ways to minister to people who have been deceived:

1. Use Compassion Toward Them
2. Have Mercy with Fear

So, as we minister to people, we must remember that there are some people who are involved with false teaching or who dwell inside cults and false religions who either don't know or who don't believe what those people are teaching. These people physically sit among the heretics, but they do not accept what is being taught. They could be the children who go with their parents and sit and listen to false teachers, but yet God has graced these children to not accept the apostasy that is being brought forth. They could be wives who go with their husbands to preserve family peace or husbands who go with their wives. And there may be several other factors that cause some people to sit and listen or

even belong to false religions or cults, yet God has preserved their souls and they do not accept what the heretics are bringing forth.

And in verse 22, Jude says that we need to use great compassion when dealing with these particular people. They are in an impossible situation. They are not able to verbally denounce the ungodly teachings either out of fear or for other reasons; and they are forced or feel compelled to physically go and attend- yet in their hearts- they are not accepting what is being taught.

And I suppose that you know people like this. I meet people all the time who may sit in a place where it is taught that Mary, the mother of Jesus is a “co-redemptrix” with Christ for Salvation; or where it is taught that Jesus did not live a sinless life; or where it is taught that God was once a man or where it is taught that Salvation is brought forth by human works- but they personally don’t believe it;. They reject the lies in their hearts- even though they physically sit among those who do believe it.

So, we must pray for these souls, dear friends- and we must deal with these precious people with mercy and love and compassion in the hope that the reason why they attend false teaching will be moved or else God will work His Will in saving their loved ones.

Now periodically, due to their family connections, these people will even say things that are not right; they will participate in rituals and ceremonies about which they do not agree. But again, we must be merciful to them realizing their situation.

But as we do that, we must never refrain from speaking the Truth to them. We must clearly and faithfully speak Truth- even to those who are in bondage.

You see, over the years, we have lost the meaning of many of the words that we use everyday. For example- when I was young- the word, “gay” used to mean “happy” and “carefree”- but today, the word, “gay” means “sexually perverted” and there is nothing happy about that. The word, “cool” used to mean that the temperature was lower- but today, “cool” means “interesting” or “acceptable.” The word, “bad” doesn’t mean “wicked” or “evil” anymore- no, “bad” means, “cool.”

And so it is with many words that we use every day, and this is also true with words like “love” and “mercy” and “Truth” and “compassion.” Today when many people use the word, “love” they don’t mean the same thing that people have meant for centuries. The word “love” is used

today as a synonym for “lust” in many places and something sweet and innocent and pure becomes something ugly and evil and sinful.

For example, parents today say that the reason that they do not spank their children is because they love them. That is not true. The inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of the living God commands parents to discipline their children- including to spank them. Let’s read

Proverbs 13:24:

He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Now this verse certainly does *not* condone beating children unmercifully and neither do I, but this verse clearly says that when a father withholds the rod on his son- then God says he hates his son; he despises his son; he loves his son less than he should precisely because he is not correcting him to prepare him for life. Now I know that some of you are cringing right now- but beloved- I didn’t write that- God the Holy Spirit moved upon Solomon- the wisest man in all the world to inspire him to write that. Now I realize that very popular child psychologists would tell you today that God’s Word is all wrong and that what children really need is just a “Time Out”. But that isn’t true because Almighty God- the Creator of the Universe and the Lord- Who loves your children a whole lot more than you do- says that there are times when a man who loves his son will chasten him with a rod. So as believers, we are to reject any teaching that contradicts the Word of God, and we are to humble ourselves to the authority of Gods’ Word and obey that which God has said. Right?

So, the real reason that people do not spank their children is not because they love them- but because they do not want their children to be angry with them and they do not wish to appear to be harsh or cruel. And so, they are more concerned about what their children or the world thinks of them than they are in raising godly children. And so today- millions of parents raise children who have no discipline and then turn these spoiled children out into society to live their selfish and self-centered lives to force other people to have to deal with them. And all I am saying is that that is not love- it is cowardice.

We have also messed up the word, “Truth.” In our postmodern world- the word, “Truth” has really taken a beating. Today, ‘truth’

means whatever I like or whatever pleases me and my own opinion. It is common today to hear people say, “*Well that is your truth- but I have a different truth.*” No, they don’t. Divinely inspired Truth is not privately given; it is not privately understood, and it is not privately interpreted. Divine Truth means something that is exclusive- because by definition, if something is true- then anything that disagrees with it is false. In **John 14:6**, Jesus said:

I am the way, and the truth, and the life...

Now notice that Jesus didn’t say that He was “a” way among many other ways- He didn’t even say He was the *best* way. Jesus said that He was “the” way; the *only* way; the *exclusive* way. Jesus didn’t say that He spoke *about* Truth or that He believed in Truth or that He was come to teach about Truth- no, Jesus clearly said that He is Truth- and the Truth that Jesus is- is an exclusive Truth that over rules all other statements and makes everything that disagrees with Jesus to be a lie.

The Apostle Paul agreed with this in **Romans 3:4**, when he said:

... let God be found true, though every man *be found* a liar...

Then Jesus went on to offend just about every person on earth when He finished the verse and said;

... no one comes to the Father but through Me.

And by saying this- Jesus was saying that every other religion or human philosophy on earth was wrong about Salvation and therefore- those who understand and believe what those false religions teach- cannot and will not go to Heaven.

Jesus was telling the Jewish priests that day- and by extension all of us today- that if anyone ever hopes to go to Heaven- it will only be through Him alone; by His Grace alone; going His way alone; obeying His Word alone; submitting to His life alone; bowing to Him alone.

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.