

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

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

Chapter 15- How to Combat Heresy **Jude 17-21**

169 How to Combat Heresy Part 5

WOSM Monday 06/30/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the **Epistle of Jude** and we are continuing to go over what Jude taught about just how we are to combat heresy when it comes. So, let's read **Jude 17-21** again together:

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Now in these passages of inspired Scripture, we are examining just how we are to combat the heresy that Jude says is a real and serious threat to the Church. The key to these five verses lies in verses 20 & 21- so let's read them again:

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

So, from these two verses, we can see that Jude tells us that we are to do four specific things to combat the heresy that will periodically creep in:

1. We are to build up ourselves on our most holy Faith
2. Pray in the Holy Ghost
3. Keep ourselves in the Love of God
4. Look for God's Mercy unto eternal life

Now the half brother of Jesus Christ is telling us through the anointing of the third part of the Godhead that if we do these four things- we will successfully fight off any attack against the Truth that the enemy desires to throw at us.

Jude begins this passage about how to combat heresy with restating just exactly what the problem is. Let's look again at verses 17-19:

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

Now in verse 17, Jude is reminding his readers that it wasn't only himself who warned them about apostates and false teachers, but that every one of the Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ were faithful to warn the believers that false teachers and false prophets were going to try to come into the Church to destroy it.

Probably one of the most moving passages of Scripture in the New Testament is recorded for us by the physician Luke in The Book of the Acts of the Apostles when Paul is standing before the Church at Ephesus and telling them his heart. Let's read that passage by turning to **The Acts 20:17-38**:

17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

36 And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

37 And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,

38 Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

Like Jude, Paul warns this tiny Church in what is now modern day Turkey in verse 32 that they must become very familiar with the Word of God- because Paul tells them in no uncertain terms that **of their own selves-** that is, from among them, **grievous wolves** (hurtful and destructive men) will rise up and will speak **perverse things-** that is another way of saying that these men will begin to teach false doctrines- and they will **draw disciples after them-** that is another way of saying that their false teaching will deceive them.

What was Paul's remedy for this inside subversion by sleeper cells of spiritual terrorists? Let's look at verse 32:

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Paul tells the Church at Ephesus that although the devil will cause men to rise up- even from among them to try to subvert the flock- that the answer lies in the wonderful, glorious, precious Word of Grace which all by itself is able to do two things:

1. The Word is able to **“build you up”**
2. The Word is able to **“give you an inheritance” among them who are sanctified.**

So, from verse 32 of **The Acts 20**, we can see that by engaging ourselves in a deep; serious; consistent; ongoing; systematic; line upon line; precept upon precept; study of the Word of God- we will guarantee that we will be strong and built up in the Christian Faith- which is just another way of saying that we will be edified.

Now just based upon that promise right there, you would think that people would be very eager to engage in Bible Studies. But according to Ministry Today Magazine in their October 2003 issue- Bible Studies among Churches across the country are at an all time low. Fewer people today know Biblical Doctrine than they did 1500 years ago when books and tapes and the internet and Christian radio didn't even exist and when most people were illiterate.

In other words, before the Holy Bible was translated into English and the only way for the common man to learn the Word of God was to learn three languages or else sit at the feet of someone who did know those languages- more people then knew Biblical Doctrine more than they do today with all the conveniences and tools and helps that we have available.

Now Christian friends, we can whitewash this issue all that we want to, but there can be only one reason that makes that terrible statistic to be true- people today simply are not studying the Bible in a way which teaches them Sound Doctrine.

We have become so caught up in working and earning more money and the cares of this life that far too many today are neglecting precious time- especially early in the morning when the mind and heart are fresh to engage in a season of prayer, Bible Study and meditation which would prepare us for the day.

In 1753, Jonathon Edwards said, *“I have so much to do today, that I shall spend four hours in prayer to prepare for it.”* When his day

was filled, America's Greatest Theologian spent *more* time with God; *more* time in God's Word; and *more* time *not* actually engaging in the duties of life because he knew that we are wasting our time struggling against the cares of this world until and unless we are equipped to handle them.

Now beloved, I need to say this and please do not misunderstand me. I love music. I love to sing and to play music all day long. I have often said that if God would ever bless me to be able to play an instrument that I probably would never go to sleep. But listening to music is not what Paul and Jude and Jonathan Edwards was talking about. Music is wonderful and it has a powerful place in the Church and in the life of the Christian, but music in and of itself does not possess the ability to do for you what prayer and Bible Study can do.

We need to sing, and we need to continue to write new and anointed songs, but take heed that you do not think that listening to Christian music while riding through traffic in the morning is the same thing as spending time with God in prayer and the Study of the Word because it is **not** the same thing.

There is something wonderful; something powerful; something extremely edifying that transpires in our lives when we humbly and graciously submit to the discipline of early morning Prayer and Bible Study. Can you pray and study the Bible at night? Sure, you can, and you should. But it is true that every person in the Bible including Jesus who ever did anything of importance for God rose up early in the morning- most of them way before daylight- and spent time with God in prayer and Bible Study and meditation. Now I'm not the one who wrote that in the Bible, and I don't particularly understand this- but I just know that I have personally put this into practice in my own life and it works.

So, I challenge you to make time to pray. Push other things out of the way and set aside special uninterrupted time in your life- preferably in the early morning- where you will dedicate enough time to adequately seek God's Face; Study God's Word and contemplate upon the vastness and greatness of God and see if that will not cause your inner man to thrive. Well, I have to stop right here, but Lord willing, I'll be back 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.