

**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**  
170 How to Combat Heresy Part 6**

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WOSM Tuesday 07/01/08

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 as I mentioned on the last broadcast, verses 20 & 21 of this passage gives us the keys that we need in order to effectively combat heresy- so let's read these verses 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 we can see here that Jude gave us four specific ways to combat spiritual terrorists and the false teachings that they bring into the Church:

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

And by applying these four things personally and by the leadership implementing them into the Church in general- God's people will be adequately protected when heresy rears its ugly head.

So since these four things were inspired by the Holy Ghost and since Jude wrote them down for us in this Epistle, I want to go over them so that they become clear in our minds.

## **1. We Are to Build Up Ourselves on Our Most Holy Faith**

The Greek word that Jude used here that was translated into English as “**build up**” means “to edify”. We are to edify ourselves on our most holy Faith. How do we do that? Well, to edify something is to strengthen it; It is to uplift it and make it able; to edify is to equip and to prepare someone for the Master's use.

Jude tells us that we are to build up or edify ourselves. So Jude is saying that the whole focus of everything that is said or taught or done in the Church of Jesus Christ should be to the end that the people of God are edified.

Our songs; our activities; our teaching and preaching- everything that is done in the House of God is supposed to edify saved, redeemed souls. But to what are we edified? What did Jude say that we are to edify or build up ourselves into? Our most holy Faith.

Now many people in recent years have tried to explain this verse by saying that Jude was talking about building up our faith, but that is not what Jude was saying at all. Jude is not talking about psyching ourselves up by repeating verses of Scripture over and over again. Jude was not talking about ignoring physical symptoms in our bodies so that we can say that we are trusting God.

Jude is simply not saying that we should build up our faith in this verse at all. Jude is saying that we should build up *ourselves* “on” our most holy Faith. In other words, Jude is saying that the Christian Faith is just fine- but that we are the ones who need to be edified “into” or “on” our most holy Faith- the Christian Faith. How are we edified in the Christian Faith? By being taught what it means to be a Christian; By being taught Sound Doctrine; By learning the very same teachings; the very same Doctrines that the Apostles taught in the first Church.

You see, beloved, we don’t have the authority to redefine what it means to be a Christian. We have lost so much ground about this issue in recent years that many people think that they are Christians simply because they believe that a “god” exists. Let’s read **James 2:19:**

**Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble .**

We need to remember that every single Muslim on earth believes in one god. It is the wrong god- because Allah is not the God of the Bible- and Allah is not the Father of Jesus Christ- but these people do believe in one god. But that belief in and of itself doesn’t make them saved. Every Jew and many, many agnostics are willing to say that they believe in a “god” or a higher power or “the man upstairs” or some other silly expression. But the only thing that believing in one god does for you is put you on the same level as satan- because he too, believes in one god but he isn’t saved either.

Believing that God exists is fine, I suppose - but that and \$1.50 will get you a cup of coffee. It really isn’t worth too much. The value of just believing that a god somewhere out there exists is no more valuable than a piece of cotton in a snowstorm because you would have to be really foolish not to believe that God exists. David called the man who does not believe in God a “fool” and that is not just name calling but that is putting a moral judgment upon him.

When I was a little boy they told me about the frog crawling up on the lily pad and kissing the princess and “poof” he became a prince and they called that a fairy story back then. Today they say that Man crawled up out of the water and 3,000,000 years went by and “poof!” we became a prince and now they call that science. But it is not science- it is still a fairy story.

God made Man in one 24 hour day and He made Man as a full grown man and God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and Man became a living soul.

And I am not the random result of 60 million years of evolution. I was made on purpose by design in the image and likeness of Almighty God and I was made to rule and reign and to have dominion over all the earth. And I was made to bow my knees and submit my authority to God and to serve and love Him.

Now that's just me. Those people who say that they evolved from one celled amebas- who am I to argue with them? They have convinced me that they are correct. I believe that they did evolve- I didn't- but I think they did. And I agree with those who say that they came from monkeys too. I didn't come from a monkey but many of them act like they did come from monkeys. And I want to spread the news of that far and wide. I believe that they came from monkeys and I also believe that their momma is a baboon; and I believe that their daddy is a gorilla, and I believe that their grandfather was an orangutan- but my Father and my Creator and my Lord and my Master is God- and their father is Bonzo.

Look at the eyelashes of a new born baby; look at the stars and the mountains and the waterfalls and listen to the singing of children and you will know that God exists. The Apostle Paul said that even barbarians know that something made everything that is made- they may well worship the god of thunder or a rock- but they intuitively know that someone bigger and more powerful than they are made all this.

But that doesn't make them saved. Being saved is a lot more than simply mentally agreeing with some information about God. Being saved is about being born again; it is about having the new divine nature; it is about being regenerated; it is about hating the things that you once loved and loving the things you once hated.

It is about understanding and acknowledging and confessing your sins and repenting or turning away from them and realizing your helpless estate and beating your chest in agony and utter desperation due to the comprehension of your own unworthiness and begging God for Mercy and Grace. Salvation is in Jesus Christ and in Him alone.

The Christian Church didn't fall off a turnip truck last Thursday but has been alive and well for over 2,000 years and if we

are going to say that we are the 21st century embodiment of Christianity- then we need to line up with what the Bible teaches that Christianity means.

In verse 4 of our study of Jude, we found out that every major heresy that has ever fought against the Church has tried to pervert one or more of these three concepts:

1. Grace or the Gospel
2. The Character and Nature of God
3. The Person of Jesus Christ

So if all heresy is an attack against these three concepts- then all Christians everywhere should have these three concepts firmly planted and rooted in our minds and hearts. These three concepts are what are known as the Essential or Mandatory Doctrines of the Christian Faith. And unless a person dies immediately after conversion- like the thief on the cross- he needs to be taught and he needs to know and love and obey and submit to these three concepts.

It is true that a person could be out in a cornfield and get saved and then die and never need to know any of this. He doesn't need to be baptized; take Communion; or pay his tithes or even go to Church and he could go to heaven. That is Mercy and that is Grace and we praise God for it.

But if that person does not immediately die- if he lives- then he should be taught properly and he should be baptized and he should take Communion and he should pay his tithes and he should go to Church and he is required by God's Word to know and comprehend these three concepts of Doctrine. None of these things justify him before God- we are saved without any human works at all- but they are nonetheless Biblical Commands on each and every believer after he is saved- and if someone who says that they are saved doesn't do these things- then he is direct rebellion to the Word of God.

So let's go over these three concepts. When you study just what the Gospel really is- you find out that the Gospel is a lot more than just that Jesus loves you. The Gospel starts with God's absolute and Total Sovereignty; it then goes into the Radical Ruination and all humans due to the Fall. The Gospel then takes us to the Father's

Unconditional Election whereby God chooses and predestinates those who will be saved before the foundation of the world; and then it moves into the Son's Particular Redemption whereby Jesus died to assure that every single soul that God chose is saved; and then the Gospel goes into the Spirit's Power to Draw those who are chosen and both save them and place them into the process which sanctifies them; and then the Gospel speaks about how that those whom God chose and those for whom Christ died and those who have the Spirit living and walking inside them will be kept by the Power of God unto the ultimate glory of Heaven.

The Gospel involves understanding of what role the Law of Moses plays in all of this and a Biblical understanding of both confession and repentance. All of this is the Gospel and sadly very few people know this.

So because we are not taught this anymore- false concepts about Grace and Salvation abound in our day. Many believe that being baptized saves them; others say that you must speak in tongues to be saved; still others say that the Gospel involves nothing more than saying "I'm sorry" and joining the Church; still others say that praying a five point prayer is what saves them. All of these false and unbiblical ideas and concepts cannot possibly all be correct because they all contradict each other. That is why we need to learn what God said the Gospel is from Scripture and not just "wing it" on our own.

The confusion about what the Gospel is abounds in our day precisely due to the fact that the Gospel is not taught to us like it was for about 1900 years.

Well, I'm out of time for today- but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our examination of 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.